The Darling of the Gods

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CAST OF CHARACTERS.

[illegible] OF TOSAKI Act 1 2 3 5
[illegible] 1 2 3 4 5 6

[illegible] Master of War

[illegible] Prince and leader of the two-sword men. Act 1

[illegible] Women of Zakkuri Act 1 2 3 4

: Guests at the Feast of
: A Thousand Welcomes. 1st Act

[illegible] Yoshi :

[illegible] Three Duke of the Prince of Tosan 1st Act

[illegible] Yo-san's slave Act 1 2 3 4

[illegible] Prince of Tosan's Yashiki Act 1

ACT 1.

Act 1 2 3 4

[illegible] who comes and who goes : Act 4
[illegible] JAP PLAY. : [illegible] seven [illegible]
[illegible] : of Zakkuri
[illegible] 1 2 3 4 :
[illegible] 1 2 3 4 :
[illegible] 1 2 3 4 :

Devil Bird Co
&
Other Cmp.

[illegible] : In the War Office Act 4

[illegible] Prince of the Land of Zakkuri : Kuro's
: Two-sword Act 3
: Men

[illegible] Daughter of the Prince of Tosan Act 1 2 3 4 5

[illegible] Yoshi-Tsuyo's Aunt Act 3

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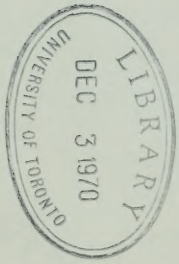

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

ROSY SKY, a dweller in "Day without nights" Act 1-4

SAIGON, PRINCE OF TOSAN Acts 1st 2nd 3rd

ZAKKURI, Minister of War " 1st 2nd-4th-5th

KARA, an outlaw Prince and leader of the two-sword men. Acts 1-3-4-

TONDA-TANJI, nephew of Zakkuri Act 1-2-3-4

SIR YUKO-YUMA :
LORD CHICHI : Guests at the Feast of
ADMIRAL TANO :
HASSEBE SOYEMON : A Thousand Welcomes. 1st Act
and Gentlemen of rank :

SHUSSHOO, Major Domo of the Prince of Tosan 1st act

INU, a Corean giant - Yo-san's slave Acts-1-2-3-4-

YOBAN, watcher at the Prince of Tosan's Yashiki Act I

CRIER of the Night Hours Act-2-

KUGO, the gnarled back Act 1-2-4- ;
SHIBA, teller of who comes and who goes ;
MIGAKU, the shadow 1st-2nd :
KOJIN, gatherer of Geisha tattle 1-2-4 :
ATO, the watcher of the watchers 1-2-4 :
TCHO 1-2-4 :
TARO 1-2-4 :

Act 4
The seven spies
of Zakkuri

MAN IN THE LANTERN Act 2

KATO, a fisher of carp " 4

THE IMPERIAL MESSENGER " 4

FIRST SECRETARY : In the War Office Act 4
SECOND SECRETARY :

BANZA, Priest of the band of Samurai : Kara's
NAGOYA :
TORI : Two-sword Act 5
KORIN :
BENTO : Men
And Five Others :
LITTLE SANO, son of Nagoya :

YO-SAN, daughter of the Prince of Tosan Act-1-2-3-4-5-

CHIDORI, Tonda-Tanji's Aunt - Act -3-

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FIRST PICTURE:

CAST - Continued

A glimpse of "The God and the Mountain."

ROSY SKY, a dweller in "The city without nights" Act 1-4

SETSU, Yo-san's maid Act-1-2-3

KAÉDÉ, a teacher of manners Act I

MADAME ASANI, the beautiful Geisha of Red Maple Gardens, (with her troupe of Geisha and the three little geisha apprentices) Act 4

THE FOX WOMAN, who is supposed to "devour men's souls" " 5

THIRD PICTURE:

NIJI-KOKO (little lady of the rain-bow) RosySky's maid " 1

The great state maid during the night of "The Tenno of" " 1

NU, a singing girl

"The face in the lantern's light."

FOURTH PICTURE:

Heralds from the Emperor, maids-in-waiting to the Princess, screen bearers, Kago men, coolies, retainers, runners, servants, geisha, musumé, priests, lantern bearers, banner bearers, incense bearers, gong bearers, jugglers, acrobats, torturers, carp flyers, Imperial soldiers, and Zakkuri's musket-men.

FIFTH PICTURE:

The Japanese musical instruments on the stage are - the biwa, samisen, Koto, Isudzumi, and fuye.

"Water flows the same, love goes the same."

ACT II.

Forty days later.
Behind the shoji of Yo-san's sanctuary.
"The fate-hour."

ACT III.

Later the same day.
The old sword-room - the cabinet of the Minister of War.
"Nothing for nothing is given here."

FIRST PICTURE:

A glimpse of "The God and the Mountain."

SECOND PICTURE:

A look into the garden within the Yashiki of the Prince of Tosan.

"A Butterfly catches a Butterfly".

From sunset to dark.

THIRD PICTURE:

The great state hall during the night of "The feast of a Thousand Welcomes."

"The face in the lantern's light."

FOURTH PICTURE:

Kanzachi Forks at the Hour of the Ox . (Two o'clock)

"Within the shadows of the gates."

FIFTH PICTURE:

The shoji of Yo-san among the moonflowers.

"Nothing ever changed since the days of the Gods, Water flows the same, love goes the same."

ACT 11.

Forty days later.

Behind the shoji of Yo-san's sanctuary.

"The fate-hour."

ACT 111.

Later the same day.

The old sword-room - the cabinet of the Minister of War.

"Nothing for nothing is given here."

ACT IV. FIRST PICTURE:

The meeting place at the ruined shrine of the Goddess Kwannon.
Dusk hour of the third day.

SECOND PICTURE:

The Red Bamboo forest.
"The tryst of death."

INTERMEZZO

THIRD PICTURE:

A Thousand years have elapsed.
The mountain of Shédé, (between the heavens and the hells), on the brink of the River of Souls.

FOURTH PICTURE:

The first Celestial heaven.

The action of the play takes place in Japan, during the period of the "sword edict", when the Emperor took away the swords of the Samurai - the two-sword men. This play deals with a little band of ten who refused to obey the edict and became outlawed.

A C T 1.

At the close of the introductory overture - when the curtains are drawn - on a drop is seen in the far distance the sacred mountain and in the fore-ground the God (the great Buddha of Kama Kura.)

This fades away into

FIRST SCENE: A glimpse of the garden within the Yashiki of The Prince of Tosan.

"A Butterfly catches a Butterfly."

From sunset to dark.

It is late afternoon. The sun is not far from setting. The shadows are long and dark, but between these, it is still very sunshiny. A beautiful garden with many flowers is seen distantly and mistily behind transparent drops. There may be tree-peonies, azaleas, irises, plumeblossoms. There is a stream, and a curved bridge. Some trees - carefully "gardened". At back, a stork is seen. The prelude, which changes to theme of Yo-san - as the curtain rises - continues throughout this tableau varying with her mood. An occasional call of a bird is heard.

Yo-san is flitting about the gardens very joyously, gathering flowers. She has quite an armfull, to which, as she goes from clump to clump, she adds. Setsu, her maid, is kneeling binding the blossoms together. The last sheaf of rays from the setting sun falls on a clump of azaleas. As Yo-san approaches it, a butterfly rises and flits about - she watches it, for an instant, as it flies away. Then motioning the maid to keep quiet, she tip-toes towards bush and into the red sunshine. As she bends over the azaleas, a cloud of butterflies rise. She drops the flowers and chases them. They flutter about her and fly off in a glittering bunch. She has caught one which she joyously holds in her hand and shows to Setsu, peeking at it in half closed palms. After a moment of delight, she opens her hand to let the butterfly go and finds that she has killed it. She is very sorry and with the maid's help, tries in vain to make it fly - then blows it gently off her hand - but it only falls to the ground. As she looks at it lying there - an ominous peal of thunder is faintly heard - With a cry, she starts and grasps Setsu in fright. As she stands in

Enter first Change in Music,
Carrying flowers — off to
Helen, Spudding R. C — Turn —
Fire flowers — up R. C. fluttering
one — over Helen, back again,
L.C — another turn — Dee
Butterfly — Gurgle — Pantomime —
Start for tree C — take 6 steps —
Stop — look — 3 — find nothing —
around tree — C — the butterfly
poised from L. on twig —
start for and catch it —
pantomime to Helen — back
Come C. — hunger showing little,
finally recover to find dead
worm poke — finally throw it
& falls ground dead — pantomime

Regret until thunder, then

~~terror~~ - another rumble is followed by another.

Darkness grows deeper... In the distance, the voice of Kaede calls in a monotonous chant which sounds almost like a song,

"Yo-san - Hei! - O!...."

In fear, Yo-san gathers up her flowers and runs off - followed by Setsu.

(A slight pause) The whirr of a bird's wings is heard and it flies on and settles on a limb. (Kaede's voice)

"Yo-san - Hei - O!"

It is now quite dark - A weird air plays for a second or two and presently in the distance the quaint music of the biwa, samisens, flutes and drums is heard from interior of the palace, growing louder. The flicker of a lantern is seen in the darkness - then several - then the dim shadowy forms of servants can be seen setting a number of rose silk lanterns.

The scene at first is in a faint mist, only a few lanterns shining out brightly, a soft blue moonlight coming up outside through the open shoji - which mistily shows the court-yard gardens - and stone steps and part of the palace in the distance - all of which becomes gradually illuminated. On the verandah two storks of bronze - holding lanterns of bronze. The gardens are arranged for the "Feast of welcome." As the servants light the lanterns outside, which are covered with rose-colored paper (on which is the crest of the Prince, in blue), other servants continue to bring lanterns into the room, the whole scene reaches brilliantly radiant, all the shoji pushed aside)

SECOND SCENE: Banquet-room of the Palace during the "Feast of a Thousand Welcomes."

"The Face in the Lantern's Light."

This state room is arranged for the feast. A dozen tables are set about, one for each guest, with mats and kneeling cushions behind and before, for the musume who will serve, and for the guest whom she will serve, respectively. The tables are arranged in the form of a maple leaf - (or the tables themselves may be of that shape.) Each table contains some simple accessories, such as porcelain sake bottles - cups of porcelain - chop sticks. The dishes should differ in color and design, at each table. There is a raised platform for the host and his chief guest. Each table contains the name of the guest to whom it is alotted. Near is one or more hibachi, which should be of bronze, for

Cartwright

Hood

Pau

Sandal

Red

Pure

Jau

Bear the seat of honor there - Smile -

smoking. There are ornamental sambo-like stands for pipes and a supply of tobacco. Kneeling cushions. Off R. - music of the Samisen, flutes and drums continues - unobtrusive, and follows scene)

(As the servants have disappeared for a moment, Kaede, a prim woman, appears in the passing-way R.C., facing L.)

KAEDE

(Calling - fan to her mouth to carry the sound)
Yo-san... Hei - O!
(Snaps her fan impatiently, coming down steps)
Oh, where is the Honorable headstrong Yo-san?
~~(Goes off the cushions)~~
~~Yo-san - Hei - O!~~
(Just as Kaede passes off - Yo-san and Setsu steal on. From L. ~~from behind a large vase - containing blossoms~~ - their sandals in their hands. Kaede's voice dies away in the distance L. They are both frightened)

YO-SAN (up C. looks off R) up steps.
It is Kaede, my teacher of manners!

SETSU down L.
Aie, aie, never were you out so late before, Exalted Princess!

YO-SAN R. turning up stage.
(Peeping about - not heeding)
Setsu - look! The lanterns are lighted for a feast!
Shusshoo - heard outside -

SETSU
(Frightened)
Shusshoo! vase
(They dart behind large ~~lantern or screen~~) L. C. -
(Shusshoo, the Major Domo - enters followed by servants - ~~who carry~~ an enormous pyramid of oranges) footer C. - flat

SHUSSHOO
(Pointing with wand of his office to place beside seat of honor)
Bear them there! - Snails!)
(Yo-san and Setsu, who have been peeping, waiting for a chance, now, seeing the men's backs turned - rush, noiselessly across into the passage R.) - [illegible]
(to 1st servant - not observing them)
If all does not pass faultlessly tonight, you shall pay with your head -
(to 2nd servant)
You with your feet! Cooke - Cooke. Yuke!

(They kowtow to him and exeunt as he goes up - inspecting everything - stepping outside)

YO-SAN

(Who has been peeping, now coming forward) (Music changes, she looks towards part of the room from whence it comes) (through C. room - up C.)
Listen! Geisha! Come, let us peep!

SETSU

That would be very dreadful!

(Yo-san makes a gesture of "Come on", and pulls Setsu after her - they peep. Shusshoo, who has come forward, is horrified - coughs warningly and discreetly turns his head away)

(Setsu starts to run panic-stricken but Yo-san catches her and assuming an air of bravado as though to say "Who's afraid" - drags the unwilling Setsu behind her - She claps her hands, and Shusshoo turns and faces her, kowtowing)

YO-SAN

(Sternly)
You - you - coughed! Bold one!
(The maid is close behind her in fear)

SHUSSHOO

(Kowtowing profoundly, lower and lower)
O, radiant Princess, I thought me - miserable me - you should know that you were being observed in the banqueting room.

YO-SAN

Go... most meddlesome!
(He kowtows and starts - she claps her hands - he pauses)
And if you say you saw me here, I shall have you punished as a maker of lies.
(Shusshoo kowtows and exit R. - outside)
(As he exits see the [illegible] with a perfect abundance of daylight)

Hai!

(Peers off R. - then with bated breath)
Setsu. There are men there - men! Two - ten - twenty - men!

SETSU

O Lady Yo! It is wrong for you to look at a man!

YO-SAN

I will... I will look at everything here....
(Peers among bits of parchment on cushions - reading names, while Setsu stands wringing hands - looking in fright from R. to L.)

Ready off I. 2E
Rosy Sky
Nyi - Onna

~~(Reading over names on cushions)~~
~~Sir Yuko-Yama! Lord Chichi - Admiral Tano --~~

~~SETSU~~
~~(Apprehensively)~~
~~- Princess, considerately --~~

YO-SAN (Seeing Seat of Honor, on turning)
(Stopping her by a gesture, as the music, which has ceased, plays a soft melody with a minor note in it)
(In awe)
- The seat of the august guest of a "Thousand welcomes." He must be next to a God, Setsu, that my Father should show him such honor. Crossing to seat -
(Reads card)
(Pronounces name very softly)
Prince Kara! Oh, name of a thousand beautiful whispers....
"Ka-ra!" Standing from the Bridge of Heaven, touch with your
(Hmm) (As the moonlight falls on the cushion)
beat ~~The Goddess of the moon touches~~ the place where ~~he~~ will sit...
(Bows)
Prince Kara, I make my little Kowtow to you.
(Does so)
(For a moment the music stops) Rosy Sky Sings off I

KAEDE
(Appearing outside, chancing to look)
~~Oh, where have you been - my wayward mistress Yo! You know -~~
that the book of manners
(Holding it up)
says - "only Geisha and fire flies - may be out in the dark!"

YO-SAN
(Picking up a pair of chop sticks and tasting something out of a bowl)
~~Renowned teacher of manners - I was so happy out of your beautiful goodness.~~

KAEDE To your shop! -
Come, I beg! ~~You are to dress...~~ Your Father wishes you to - see your betrothed, the Honorable Tonda-Tanji - for the ~~second~~ time.

YO-SAN
Aie -
(Rising - going up - resignedly - towards little landing R.C.)

KAEDE
~~(To Setsu, clapping her hands)~~
~~See that none observe as we cross the court-yard!~~
(Setsu bows, going up. Kaede and Yo-san start forward -

Yo-san going up with a little trot - [redacted], "Rosy Sky" is heard off singing an air to "aie" to which she keeps step as she comes to open shoji - veiled. She is gaily dressed - showing her caste - and is followed by Niji-~~Koza~~. Yo-san pauses - listening)

Ohma -

KAEDE R.C. -

(Yo-san still pauses - Putting her fan over Yo-san's face)
Do not look, immaculate Princess - ~~Oh honorable degradation!~~

YO-SAN

(Pushing fan away - staring at Rosy Sky)
... Hai!... Hai!
(Laughs - claps her hands)
Who are you? - Rosy Sky stops singing.

ROSY SKY L.C. -

I am Bara-Sora - but foreigners of wealth call me "Rosy Sky":

KAEDE

Aié! Yes - Yo San -

YO-SAN

(Approaching) (Bow) How is your honorable health -
I am Yo-san. ~~At the convent they named me the "Darling of the Gods"~~
(As they salute, each maid does the same behind her mistress)
(Yo-san's voice takes a polite conversational tone, as they eye each other)
Do you happily eat well?

ROSY SKY

I have not happily eaten well, of late.

YO-SAN

For that I am augustly sorry. But your husband eats then happily well - your most noble husband?

ROSY SKY

I have no noble husband - miserably none.

YO-SAN

He is solemnly dead?

ROSY SKY

He has not yet joyously lived.

Yo-san rolls in with a little trot - [illegible]
"Cory Sky" is doing all things an art to "die" to which she [illegible] to open itself - veiled. She is still dressed - [illegible] - and is followed by Kiri-San, Yo-San's maids - listening.

(Kiri-San -)

YOSY

(Yo-San still [illegible] - turning her fan over Yo-San's face)
Do not look, in scarlet [illegible]

YO-SAN

(Pushing fan away - starting at Cory Sky)
... Hah!... Hah!
(Leaving - clasps her hands)
Who are you? -

CORY SKY

I am Nora-Sora - but foreigners of wealth call me "Cory Sky":

KIRI

Ah!

YO-SAN

(Astonished)
I am Yo-San.
"Nora-Sora" [illegible] reminded me the "meaning" of "Sora-Sora"
(a very noble, such rank does the name behind her mis-
tress)
(Yo-San's voice takes a polite conversational tone, as
they are deep color)
Do you happily set well?

CORY SKY

I have not happily [illegible] or [illegible]

YO-SAN

For that I am supremely sorry. But husband [illegible] happily well - your most noble husband?

CORY SKY

I have no noble husband - miserably none.

YO-SAN

He is solemnly dead?

CORY SKY

He has not yet joyously lived.

YO-SAN

Hai?

ROSY SKY

I have not yet seriously married a husband.

YO-SAN

Oh!... Then how are your honorable many children? Do they eat well?

(Rosy Sky is astonished)

KAEDE

Guileless Princess, you do not know what you say!

(Tugging at Yo-san's Kimono - aside)

She is a Geisha! - Come!

YO-SAN

(Aside to Kaede)

Look into your book and see if all are not alike in the sight of the Gods!

KAEDE

(Not opening book - wailing)

Aie! Aie!

YO-SAN

(Sighs)

(to Rosy Sky)

Oh, fortunate Miss Geisha. You will see this fe ast!

ROSY SKY

(Proudly)

Yes, there will be beautiful young men here! They will acclaim me!

Kaede - says - "Aie"

YO-SAN

(Breathlessly)

Yes?

ROSY SKY

Some of them will even wish to accompany me home!

(Fans herself)

YO-SAN

How augustly splendid!

(to Kaede, who is wringing her hands)

Say so!

KAEDE

(With force)

Odious!

YO-SAN

Please excuse her - she is my honorably hateful teacher of manners!
(Lifts Rosy Sky's veil - which she tries to get, but which Yo-san keeps)
Oh... you are very pretty.
(Judicially)
But too much painted. Why do you wear your obi tied in front?
(Touching Rosy Sky's obi)

ROSY SKY

I live in Geisha street, the little city without nights!
Thus I make my sign for men. (his, if female)

YO-SAN

Sign? - For men?

KAEDE

(Horrified)
Aie --
(Yo-san claps her hands for silence. Kaede stops instantly)

ROSY SKY

(Simply)
I am an courtesan.

YO-SAN

(Pronouncing the word with difficulty
Cour - te - san... - there are so many strange words I have not heard! ~~Oh! I have so much to learn.~~ You see I only came into the world three days ago! (putting Zau in obi.)

ROSY SKY

Into the world?....

YO-SAN

I ~~sat~~ lived always in the convent temple ~~and dressed my hair and wore red kakema and bells on my toes and lacquered my face~~, and danced to please the gods! Oh, it was honorably dull! But now, I am permitted to learn the things of the world. You may therefore tell me - what is a --
(With difficulty)
cour - te - san?

(Sit. with veil)

ROSY SKY

One dedicated to love!

YO-SAN

Love? Beautiful Gods! Love! ~~That most sacred, that most wonderful thing in all the worlds!~~ That is so nice!

~~(Putting her arm on Rosy Sky's shoulder)~~

Oh, you must be a good girl! A good girl! - To be dedicated to love....

(to Kaede) (slapping her with her fan) ⑦ on stage

Say so!

KAEDE

~~I say~~ Reprehensible!

YO-SAN

(Clapping her hands - stamps her foot)

~~Ah!~~ Love is not in your book! Go - (Kaede exit) R.3.E. over shf -

~~KAEDE~~

~~(Wailing piteously)~~

~~Ah! And you are not dressed.~~

~~(Disappears)~~

She is such unfortunate soil for love

~~YO-SAN~~

~~(To Rosy Sky)~~

~~She is such unfortunate soil for love!~~ Seten, Cushions Ochuwari

(They sit on the cushion at the hibachi, facing each other, each maid, sitting precisely as her mistress does, behind her)

Further - concerning love - ~~Hai... Hai!~~ Love's nice -

~~(Laughs)~~

~~Do you know that song? We sang it away up in the temple,~~ honorably unheard by the Priests....

~~(Sings, with quaint grotesque gestures - chanting in sing-song fashion)~~

~~"Nothing ever changed since the days of the gods -~~
~~Water flows the same - love goes the same.~~
~~Nothing, hence, will change till the gods come again -~~
~~Water still will flow, love still will go -~~
~~The same!"~~

(to Rosy Sky)

~~That's nice!~~ Say so!

ROSY SKY L.C

(Placidly)

Oh yes!

(Calls)

Niji-~~Koko~~! Ohma

(Her maid pushes paint box towards her)

(She rouges her lips)

Kindly permit... I am pale! O Stop.

C/

(Oh, Rosy Sky) - (more paint?) YO-SAN If a man ki-essed you, he would

be poisoned!

ROSY SKY

Ki-essed me? What is that? (Saint thing still in hand)
(A bit terrified)

YO-SAN

A ki-ess is a custom of foreign countries... It is. . well It's ~~a something which~~ belongs to love... ~~not the kind you have for your venerable Father~~ -
(They both kowtow) in this red book.
I found out about it ~~at the convent~~. A peddler sold us a ~~strange, red, foreign book.~~ of the
(Shows it in her sleeve) It's good that large foreign Convent
It's ~~all~~ in that. Called U.S.
(In an instructive manner)
Now love is full of - ki-esses - and em-ber-aces - and tou-ouches... the ki-esses go on ~~the eyes, and hair, and hands and~~ lips - the ~~touches~~ embraces go at the waist - the touches
(Sighing) Pus -
Almost all over!
(Reaches over, on her knees, and very ineptly kisses Rosy Sky - then draws back as if to consider it - sitting)
There! That is what men do ~~when they love a woman~~ - ~~I shall teach my husband that~~!... Did you like it?

ROSY SKY

(Indifferently)
What does it mean?

YO-SAN

(Reflectively)
I ~~think~~ it requires a man! - the book said so! - and long - and slow -
(Stuck)
Oh! I forgot the em-ber-aces at the waist!
(She tries this with the same lack of success)

ROSY SKY

It seems foolish!

YO-SAN

~~I think it would be less foolish if it were a man!~~
Not with a man — the book says so.

ROSY SKY

(Re-painting the check Yo-san has kissed)
Pardon, but you have rubbed off my paint, the badge of my calling - "Much paint, little virtue."

YO-SAN

(Musing)
Virtue... virtue... where have I heard that word? Oh - they

prize that very highly at the temple.

ROSY SKY

I do not! It is augustly amusing to be a Courtesan. All night we hold revelry in Geisha street.

YO-SAN

Oh, that is nice! Then I shall be a courtesan - Setsu
(Halts)
~~for at least one night... and if I fancy it, I shall continue.~~
Ha! Already I have plans.
(Changing)
Here ~~is sake~~ -
(Giving her bottle)
I will wear your veil - Places veil on stage, by cushions
(Hands it to Setsu)
- your Kimono)
(Tries to pull it off)
Here are chop-sticks, dried carp, a pipe ...
(Catching up things from table, leads Rosy Sky's maid with them)
(Music, which has been playing on and off during act, now quickens in tempo, to a Geisha dance)
Just for tonight! Let me be you - you - here! Here! With the Geisha. Here's money -

ROSY

But I shall have twenty lovers present!

YO-SAN

Twenty! Oh Gods! Think of it! Oh, that is beautiful!
(Seeing Kaede who has re-appeared, watching off from R. to L.)
Say so! Twenty lovers!

~~KAEDE~~ - Setsu

Twenty! Oh, Shaka!

YO-SAN

But you do not understand - ~~Kaede~~ - ~~it is a mere matter of arithmetic. If one can find supreme happiness with one lover - how much more supreme happiness with twenty!~~

KAEDE

(Kneeling)
~~Myriad Gods! And you betrothed!~~

YO-SAN

(Who has now divested Rosy Sky of her Kimono, beneath

which there is another gay one)
Here, Rosy Sky, is much money to pay for the happiness you lose tonight....
(Gives Rosy Sky money from her sleeve)

KAEDE (enters R.3.E.)
~~(Who has looked off)~~ returns
August one, your Father is coming - Quickly! Zakhuri comes with him.

ROSY SKY
(Her look changing to stolid hatred)
Zakhuri!

KAEDE
SETSU
(Together)
Hai! Hasten!
(They go up) (Cushions up R.C.) also takes veil.

YO-SAN
(Tucking Rosy Sky's Kimono under her arm)
Go! Rosy Sky!

KAEDE
Yo-san!
(She and Setsu disappear quickly off R.)

YO-SAN
Oh sweet Gods! I shall be a courtesan ~~for one~~ to night!
(Runs off)
(The music comes to an end) Change to Official dress.

ROSY SKY
(Looking off, fanning)
That terrible Zakhuri! Hai! Who tired of me! - Some day I shall make you very much trouble! # followed by Night-Cry # (8)
(Trots off L.)
(Few quaint bars - no melody - serving as a very brief prelude to the following scene)
(The Prince of Tosan, a man of a noble type - his face lofty - his hair white and worn in long queue, enters, preceded by Shusshoo, who faces him, kowtowing on obsequiously)

SHUSSHOO
~~O, Golden Prince~~ - O Master of Princes - All is waiting for your "Guest of a Thousand Welcomes."

(Kneels as the Prince comes forward. Zakkuri appears - and pauses - he is a serene, crafty inscrutable man, when most cruel he has a cat-like smile. His hair is black and worn in a long queue)

(Yoban has given a call and a small man has appeared outside with a long bamboo pole having foot-holds. Yoban holds the pole - and the man has climbed up and looked in all directions - shaking his head)

~~PRINCE OF TOSAN~~

~~(Clapping hands once)~~

~~Yoban!~~

(Music ends)

~~See if a guest comes into any of the four gates of the Yashaki.~~

~~YOBAN~~

~~There is no one in sight, O Master of Nobles!~~

~~(The Prince gestures them away - they exeunt Kowtowing)~~

PRINCE OF TOSAN R.C.

(to Shusshoo, who yet kneels)

Still wait ... He has twenty minutes until the hour. (9) orchestra

(Exit Shusshoo, kowtowing)

ZAKKURI L.L.

(Coming forward)

I have hunted this outlawed Kara - your guest of honor - for nearly a year - without success. It has been the one blot upon an otherwise faultless administration as War Minister! The Emperor - Heaven-Born - ancestored by Gods -

(Both kowtow)

- is exceedingly annoyed. Today, he would not see me - me - Zakkuri! That is the nail in my sandal! Think of all I have done - ~~in Satsuma - Saigo - for the graveyard Jokoji! Did I not follow the brocaded banner from Kyoto to the Imperial gates....~~

(Pleased)

Aie - ~~I~~ but now I think my spies have taken advantage of your guests coming - and killed him. (goes up L.C. knocking by hat, flicks pip

PRINCE OF T.

I do not like your use of my sacred hospitality, O Zakkuri! You put me in the position of a Prince who gives a feast to which the guest is decoyed - while your spies wait to strangle him.

(Zakkuri smiles - nods his head in serene acquiescence, and fills a small pipe which he smokes)

ZAKKURI

- Yielding that... Consider!... your guest is an outlaw - he has no appropriate place where I can kill him. He is so very

inaccessible that you, yourself, had to paint your invitation upon the trees of the forest - "Invited Kara, Prince - outlaw - at the hour of the Dog the third day after this - in re-payment of an obligation of honor - signed Saigon, Prince of Tosan."

PRINCE OF TOSAN

Before Shaka, I wish I had let this obligation pass....

ZAKKURI

(Craftily)

You could not --

(Puffs)

He saved your life - and the Exalted Princess Yo-san's! Such an obligation must be ~~paid~~ acknowledged within the third day.

PRINCE OF T.

There is more, Zakkuri, than the debt of life! The robbers who attacked me on Hakone - as I brought my daughter from the convent - would have left me dead - but they would dishonoured my Yo-san. The Gods sent this young Prince to save her!

ZAKKURI

Possibly! Still he is a Samurai - leading a band of ten - ~~all~~ each carrying two swords - though the Emperor - (son of the Gods) -

(They both kowtow)

has commanded that they be given up. In all Japan, only these ten refuse.

PRINCE OF T.

In all Japan, only these ten are brave. It is no little thing to ask a man who has fought - always fought - to fight no more - to let his country sink into the hands of one man - a tyrant!

ZAKKURI (uses & deserts Prince)

(Aghast - in a low voice)

Sh! The Emperor is our Omnipresent Earth-God!

(They both kowtow)

~~He has a million eyes --~~

(They bow)

~~A million ears --~~

(They bow)

(Louder)

You are a magnanimous Prince. ~~Your gifts are magnificent. I love your ancestors - but I do not forget that I am a servant of the son of Heaven!~~

(Bows)

I did not hear what you just said!

PRINCE OF T.

Shaka grant that Kara did not leave for this feast tonight...

ZAKKURI (L.C.)

Your invitation was a challenge. He must publicly proclaim his courage... If he refuse, he brands himself a coward. His own men would no longer follow him. Why, he would not even be given a death name - Oh he left, but --

(Laughs in silent mirth - cynically)

Still, as you say, he has a few moments!... My man Kugo comes with news - you need not observe...

(Prince of T. turns his back)

(Kugo appears - he is a sharp-featured man of a low type, his body gnarled, deformed, spidery)

KUGO

(Kowtowing to Zakkuri)

Kar a! - Lord, mighty one - Kara!

ZAKKURI

- is dead?

KUGO

No - but --

ZAKKURI

(Savagely - with a half grunt - stamps his foot in anger)

Ah!

KUGO

He has moved unseen - as a spirit - but now he comes towards Hokkaido gate!

ZAKKURI

(With a cat-like smile, polishes his long finger nails)

Ah! My hunt ends!

PRINCE OF T.

(Sternly)

He comes as my guest. While he is within my Yashaki even the Emperor cannot harm him.

ZAKKURI

(With a smile, through half closed eyes)

True, but he is outside your Yashaki!

(to Kugo)

Twenty of your men at Hokkaido gate! Let him not live to pass it....

(Exit Kugo)

(1.1)

Your invitation was a challenge. He must publicly proclaim his courage... If he refuses, he brands himself a coward. His own men would no longer follow him. Why, he would not even be given a death mask - Oh he left, was --

(In the [illegible] - or [illegible])

Still, as you say, he has a few moments!... My man Ugo carries with him - You need not fear...

(Turns at [illegible] [illegible])

(Enter [illegible] -trained man of a low type, his body [illegible], [illegible] military)

KING

(Shouting to the [illegible])

Ser s! - Lord, [illegible] ser - ser !

[illegible]

- is dead?

[illegible]

He - but --

[illegible]

(Severely - with a [illegible] [illegible] in anger)

Ah!

[illegible]

He has moved unseen - [illegible] [illegible] across towards Hohnhide gate!

[illegible]

(With a cat-like smile, [illegible] [illegible] higher voice)

Ah! My left side!

FRANCH OF T.

(Sternly)

He comes as my guest. While he is within my kingdom even the Emperor cannot harm him.

[illegible]

(With a smile, [illegible] closed eyes)

True, but he is outside your kingdom!

(to King)

Identify of your men at Hohnhide gate! Let him not live to pass it....

(Exit [illegible])

T.T. (C) Is not this [illegible] Tarte, 2 (part.) in [illegible] Turns around as they may admire it

L. VEXTC.

PRINCE OF T.

(Making a furtive sign as Inu, a slave, a Corean giant, appears, carrying his sandals in his hand and going off up passage R.) C.

Yo@san's slave... he is dumb, but he can hear too well - I would not have her know...

~~(Lights incense on shrine L. and bows to it)~~

ZAKKURI

(Clapping hands - calls)

Ato!

(Ato enters - falling at his feet)

Tell the Emperor - Heaven born -

(All bow)

his abject slave has Kara.

(Ato kowtows and exit) (L.V.E)

KAEDE

(Appearing in passage-way R. now wearing official dress)

August Prince, your daughter is prepared for the second look-at meeting with the Lord Tonda-Tanji. music cue (10) on Stage

PRINCE OF T.

Let her appear.

(Exit Kaede)

(Calls)

~~Yoban, summon the Honorable Lord~~

(At that moment Tonda-Tanji is heard off singing in a high falsetto)

"When the moon is brightly beaming - "

~~ZAKKURI~~ Prince

~~He comes now.~~

~~(Exit Yoban)~~ The Honorable Tonda Tanji comes -

TONDA TANJI (C) (11) on Stage.

(Off - singing)

"Hai! Hai! Lai!

When her rays are softly streaming

Hai!

(With the last note quavering and long drawn out - he appears - he is a young exquisite, a dandy of Japan, wearing a large lotus-flower, strumming on an instrument which he carries.

ZAKKURI

(Who has been motioning him to stop)

O exquisite and

(Getting a whiff of perfume - motioning him to keep at a distance)

highly scented nephew -

[illegible]

"Shurshov"

(Voice of ~~Yo-San~~, (who is unseen)

2nd Scene - 17

Official Dress - Head-dress - fan -

- The Exalted Princess crosses the court-yard. (11) orchestra.
(Music)

(Positions on following page.) (go R.C) followed by

PRINCE OF T.

We will consider the hour of the ceremony.
(The theme of Yo-san is now heard played with pomp. During this Yo-san has appeared and Girl attendants enter, carrying beautiful screens, figured and transparent - two to each - go R. and L. and to the back, and ongoing them, screen in the stage. ~~The men disappeared.~~ Girl attendants kowtow to the ground as Yo-san enters in a Kimono glittering with gold embroidery - in state - wearing head dress - and holding a fan between the men and herself, - with a pretentious show of modesty. A canopy is held over her by maids. She is followed by Setsu, who carries a cushion, and Nu (her singing girl) and Kaede, both of whom remain up - and four maids. All are dressed in state, Yo-san kowtows profoundly. Maids kneel - Kaede kneels)

ZAKURI

Serene Princess!

PRINCE OF TOSAI

Obedient daughter!

TONDA-TANJI

Oh, eyes of the moon!
(All kowtow)

Yo-San still up stage

Together

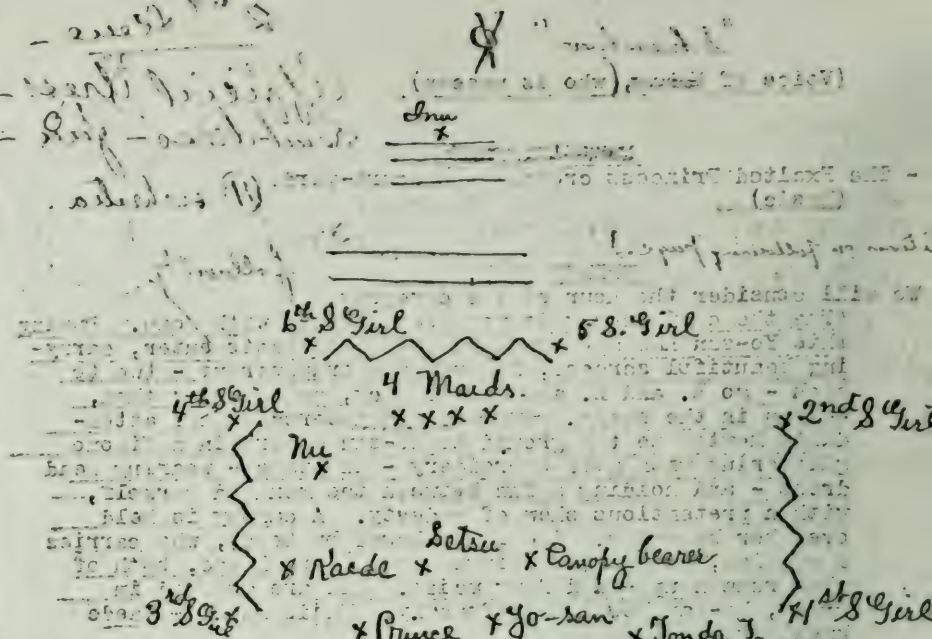
YO-SAN (comes down to C.)

(To her Father)
My venerated Father!
(to all)
I break my bones upon you!
(Draws in her breath between her teeth).
(All the maids draw in their breath in the same fashion - As Yo-san approaches her Father - ~~the maid attendants (who carried screens) back off - leaving the enclosure of screens. The maids in waiting, form a horizontal line at back.)~~

(Stop music)

PRINCE OF T.

We speak of marriage, my daughter! Are you prepared?
(At the word "marriage", Yo-san gives a flirt of her fan over her face, very coyly)
She is most properly shy.
(She makes a grimace at Setsu, but as her Father gently lowers her fan - she is a picture of Oriental modesty)



1st & 2nd, 3rd & 4th Screen girls enter R.3E. & X to places.
5th & 6th Screen girls enter R.4.E.
Nu follows 1st & 2nd on R. 3. E.

Screen Girls up stage do not open screens until Go-san & attendants have passed down but 1st 2nd & 3rd 4th Screen Girls open screens as soon as they reach positions.

TONDA TANJI

What says the dove-eyed one?

YO-SAN

(Peeping over fan - then to her Father)

I do not honorably wish to marry him - ~~just now~~! As I said at our look-at meeting - I do not like him.

(The Prince of Tosan and Kaede are shocked)

ZAKGURI

(To the Prince)

What difference should that make to a dutiful wife? Princess, you were betrothed to my excellent nephew at three!

YO-SAN

Do you faithfully remember every small thing that happened when you were three?

(Her Father grins with pleasure at her wit)

TONDA TANJI

But you would dutifully grow to admiration of me, zephyr of heaven!

YO-SAN

(Her fan up)

I could grow to hate you better.

PRINCE OF T?

(Sternly)

But you will not, my Yo?

YO-SAN

(Shocked)

No! ~~I have not leave~~. I have not been taught to hate.

(Sighs) (Controlling a smile - inspecting him)

Hai!.. You are beautiful - O, Tonda-Tanji, as a red Makemono -

(Tonda T. smiles with Oriental serenity)

Your voice is like the hoto-tojisu...

(He bows)

Hai - You are a full bloomed lotus ~~flower~~! But I would value you more highly if you were brave! - Gods!.. why do you not do a mighty deed that would make - er --

(Halts)

TONDA T.

(Very eagerly)

What?

YO-SAN

Your picture for sale at Tokyo?

T.T. will permit you to

TONDA T.

Serene Princess, permit me to grant your every happy wish:::

YO-SAN

You cannot! I wish to love my husband!

ZAKKURI

I never heard of anything so progressive...

PRINCE OF T.

(Apologetically)

She does not understand this love she speaks of!

YO-SAN

- Oh yes... A hi-ess and - em-ber-ace - make up this new thing - love - ~~That is all I honorably know about it - as yet!~~

PRINCE OF T.

(Sternly, to Kaede)

Where did she learn this?

KAEDE

(Kowtowing to the ground)

In a foreign red book, O, Gracious Prince.

YO-SAN

In the book and inside of me!

(Her hand on her heart)

ZAKKURI

Ah! Inside of her. There is more...

PRINCE OF T.

Noble Zakkuri, she is miserably young - she does not know her wants!

YO-SAN

I do not want much... only to be perfectly hap - happy all my life --

ZAKKURI

(Mockingly)

Ho!

(Tonda Tanji looks at her during the following with greedy eyes - At appropriate moments Ku, singing girl, strums softly on her instrument and sings - not words - but hums "Ta-e! Ta!" to music very R.C.)

PRINCE OF T.

(Aside to Zakkuri - tenderly)

She has no Mother!

(Zakkuri and Prince Kowtow)

(12)

YO-SAN

As yet, I have not ~~yet~~ felt one sorrow... No sorrow do I wish! The Gods have kept large watchful eyes upon my way - The plaything of their happy moods, I know them... My life has been as a moon-flower in the dawn...

(Music of singing girl)

- nodding its plume to every gentle wind... Japan has flung its perfumes for my laughter, and at my feet, its blossoms for a carpet where I tread...

(A bar or so of music)

I live, I know not why nor how nor ask the Gods... but like a rose, perhaps my simple fate only to be fair to see!

~~(Gets a sweet she steals from her feast)~~

PRINCE OF T.

(Amused)

My little witch of all the moons!

(Music ends quaintly and strums into a monotonous chant-like sound)

(13)

YO-SAN

(Earnestly)

An hour ago - a butterfly was dancing in the wind... I... killed it in its flight... It finished in my hand!

(Opens her palm sadly)

I do not think it knew it died. To the high Gods we are no more than butterflies! We make of life a thing all sad - O, Shaka!

~~(Gets another sweet hidden in her hand)~~

God of fate! Send no evils after me, remembering I was created not to suffer - merely to be nice....

(to her Father)

Say so!...

(to Zakkuri)

Say so!

(Music stops)

TONDA T.

(to himself)

She has a goddess soul! I want it!

(13½) on stage

PRINCE OF T.

That is not life, my child! Only sunshine! - Butterflies!

ZAKKURI

(With an evil smile)

There are shadows... there are shadows...

Ready R 4. E

2 Mountebanks

3 Jugglers

12 Guests

7 Museme girls with cushions

Ready R. 2 E.

2 Servants with standing lanterns

Ready L 3 E

2 Servants with standing lanterns

Ready L. 2 E

4 Lanterns bearers

4 Big Lanterns bearers

4 Banner Bearers

1 Warrior

8 Retainers

Ready for re-entrance

5 Screen girls over L 2. E

4 Maids & Screen girls R. 4. E.

(He sidles towards her as he speaks)

YO-SAN

(Retreating to her Father, and leaning against him)
Father!
(To Zakkuri, with a gesture)
Drive away your shadows - I will be happy!
(Stamping her foot)
I will because, I will!
(Her Father looks at her sternly)

PRINCE OF T.

I do not see in wayward you my dutiful Yo-san - What has changed you? - Speak! Make plain!
(Yo-san kneels on cushion Setsu has placed - Maids all kneel)

YO-SAN

I will not lie! I am changed - and it is beautiful!
(Claps hands twice - maids turn their backs - still on their knees - Yo-san speaks in a lower voice)
I love!
(Singing Girl Stops.)

TONDA T.

(Aghast)
Love! - This thing she spoke of.

ZAKKURI

But where did she see a man to love?

PRINCE OF T.

Where?

YO-SAN

On Hakone mountain - three days ago.
(At the words "Hakone mountain", the Prince and the War Minister are struck - they exchange glances)
In the flash of a lantern's light!

ZAKKURI

(To Tonda-Tanji)
Kara!

TONDA TANJI

(With hatred)
Ah!
(The Prince of Tosan stands dumb-founded, immovable)

YO-SAN

(Simply)
I opened my eyes when I thought I was dead - and there he was. His lips smiled at me - I smiled a little back - and so - I gave him all my souls - he gave me his - therefore I belong to him and it is finished!

(Claps her hands - rises - all maids rise)

TONDA T.

(to Prince of T.)
But she is pledged to me!

PRINCE OF T.

(Taking her hand gently - but with authority)
Prepare Yo-san - set the wedding day with Tonda Tanji!

YO-SAN

(Fanning)
Well... I set the day he does a mighty deed.
(Bows and maids in waiting follow as she goes up - girl attendants remove the screens)

ZANKURI

(Aside to Tonda-Tanji)
Kara comes by Hokkaido gate - my spies will give him to you dead! Humor her now - it is an important pairing - money - prestige...

TONDA T.

(To Yo-san, who is going up)
One moment, Radiant Princess - (Four maids) Kneeds Mu-eyeu
(She faces him) on step below platform.
there is an outlaw at large, the fiercest in all Japan - I will show you my hands red in his blood... will you set that day?

YO-SAN

You! A fierce outlaw? Yes... that day I name... yes!
(Aside to Setsu)
He will never do it - that Lotus flower! Hai!

~~SHUGSHOO~~

~~(Coming from palace)~~
~~The guests are coming, Prince of Princes.~~

TONDA T.

You pledge that day by Shuka?

YO-SAN

By Shuka! I give you double bowing!

Show
Most very kind
Yours
Sincerely, about
Super

TOMDA T.

Double boring!

(Both kowtow)

(Yo-san exit R. - her melody coming to an exact finish - she is followed by maids)

(A quaint instrument and noisy babble proclaim the arrival of the guests. Chaisko is followed by servants who enter and line up, each with a bamboo rod about eight feet long - They carry them lance-like. Each has in its hollow - incense which burns - the little flames are of different colors. There are banner bearers, lantern bearers and retainers.

The following scene should be embellished with a show of manners and customs and quaint ceremony, but rapidly passed. The guests are Sir Yuko Yuka, Lord Chichi, Admiral Tano, Massata Soychon, and gentlemen of rank - twelve guests in all. They bow to the Prince, who is seated haughtily fanning himself, staring straight ahead. Some speak as they pass while others kowtow. He does not return this.

SIR YUKO YUKA

(A dignified, austere man)

Your palace is sublime - and all in it! August Prince!

PRINCE NOT T.

Take immediate possession of my miserable palace.

LORD CHICHI

(An old Japanese beau about seventy-two)

I am as dust in your presence, O admirable host!

ADMIRAL TANO

Be too high minded to notice unimportant me! This I beg, Mighty Prince.

(Guests go to the different hibachi and smoke - some sitting - some standing. Maids in various colors, enter and take their places before each guest - they are there to wait upon them - they assist with pipes. A faint murmur - Japanese in sound - is heard among guests. A fantastic juggler has passed through, from L. to R. diagonally, threading his way, doing some curious feat of balancing or juggling. He is silent and notices no one, nor is he very much noticed - He passes out, - also a mountebank, curiously dressed, has passed outside - towing after him three immense carp. These are made of paper - kite fashion - and are inflated through their open mouths. They are painted to look marvellously life-like - have eyes of isinglass, and, by an expert, may be made to swim, dive or float in a very life-like manner. Following these, a small-rigged war-junk is tacked on outside, in the air, supported by poles - a dragon flag leads it, - its hull is ancient - high-poped, Griffin bow, old square ports, barnier sails, slatted, immense streamers to each

Simultaneously with tumblers banners & general entrance 2 servants enter R. 2 E. with 3 standing lanterns on is placed up R.C. front of Plat form R. two are placed down stage R. together - these exeunt return immediately with three He bache is placed up R. and two down in front of lantern. —

2 Servants enter L. 3. with two standing lanterns and one is placed in front of pillar L.C. up is placed up one placed down L.C. front of stage pillar - one over left of pillar — exeunt re-enter with one lantern each - placed up stage on the left between pillar down L. They exeunt again place Screen L, with table behind for Screen-girls.

The order of entrance of banners & lanterns follows

1st Lantern bearer enters. L.V.E. 4's down L.
2nd " " " " up L.C
3rd " " " " just L of C.
4th " " " " 4's over on plat form.
5th " " " " 4's down right.
1st Banner " " " " " "
6th Lantern " " " " " "
7th " " " " " "
2nd Banner " Eight retainers enter L.V.E 5 4 down R.
Warrior enters " " " " " "
3rd Banner " " " " L. of steps.
4th " " " " L.C. on plat form
5th " " " " " "

Guest enter R. 4.

The entrance of Lanterns Bearers Banner Bearer & Warrior precedes the entrance of the Guest

mast - the sails of pale yellow, with huge crimson Japanese characters on them. The streamers also full of Japanese writing. There is much red and gold on the hull, and carving to resemble lacquer. This remains on for a time)

HASSEBE

(Tall with long mustaches - coming down to Lord Chichi)
I wager my house on the salubrious hill, that in spite of the Illustrious Zakkuri's pitfalls, the guest of honor will yet arrive!
(All laugh cynically - some shake their heads, with exclamations)

ZAKKURI

(Angry)
You value your house too lightly, O Hassebe Soyemon!

HASSEBE

I say 'tis unfair to set a pack of men like hounds on one man, even if he has disobeyed the sword edict!

ZAKKURI

Treason!
(The two men face each other panting - fairly breathing fire - All rise scowling at Hassebe - Zakkuri's breath can be heard)
As servant of the Heaven born - the celestial Emperor by divine origin -
(Kowtows)

ALL

(Kowtowing)
By divine origin --

ZAKKURI

By divine right --

ALL

(Kowtowing)
By divine right!

ZAKKURI

- who holds every sword in Japan save ten -
(All kowtow)
- whose dogs we are -
(All kowtow to the floor)
- to torture - by the choking with salted rice - by the cool water in the sight - but never at the lips - I ask, did I hear aright?

MUSUME

(Frightened)
No... I did not speak...
(All with serene smiles resume former positions and smoke impassively)
(Bell begins to strike the hour of 9 -- 4 1/2 strokes)

Musume return (15) on Stage

YOBAN

(Calling, off, in a sing-song voice)
It is the hour of the dog...
(Three preliminary strokes of the bell, a slight pause, then five)

ZAKKURI

(With a smile)
It is nine o'clock!

PRINCE OF T.

The time for the ceremony of welcome! Friends bear witness that I was waiting.
(The Prince stands by his seat, also Zakkuri by his on his L. some of the other guests sit at Hibachi - some stand)
(All listen to bell - pipes in hand - musume kneeling - one or two guests rest their hands on the girls' shoulders as they pause)

ZAKKURI

... The moment passes... the bell ceases - he is not here... Coward!
(Drums and flourish off R. sounding the salute to a distinguished person. Guests look at each other)

YOBAN

(Heard announcing off - his voice long drawn out - impressive)
Prince Kara - enters - the - palace!
(There is a hush of absolute amazement. Servants enter straw paper addresses of welcome - and paper devices)

Segue to (16) in orch

one R of steps - one L of steps - Servants kneel R & L of steps

SHUSSHOO

(Enters, announcing)
The Honorable guest of a thousand welcomes! His Highness, Kara, Prince of Choshin!
(Kara appears. There is a murmur of admiration - Zakkuri's face is drawn in black anger. Following the Prince of Tosan's example, guests breathe in sharply through their teeth - to express welcome - and kowtow. The musume bow abjectly)

(Kara for a moment eyes guests - whom he knows, to a man for his enemies, then, with a superb and lordly inclination, draws in his breath and begins salutations to his

9 Musume ready R. 2E with Fish.

4 Servants " " Sake, Jonnen etc.
with guest tables.

2 Mountebanks ready up R 4E with Juggle

6 Geisha " " " (Hats off)

host. From under his splendid short haori can be seen to project a bit of his shirt of old mail. A pair of swords curve down in his girdle at the left side - one short, one long, splendidly carved and of beaten gold. As he comes towards his host, who has gone forward, he takes from his girdle, his two swords, and first holding them out before him towards the host horizontally - he touches them to his forehead and tenders them - one at a time - to the Prince, who receives them in the same fashion, putting them to his forehead, as he bows very low, with ceremony)

PRINCE OF T.

Illustrious Daimyo, your swords are sacred within my Yashaki!
(Hands them to Shusshoo, who deposits them in a sword rack) Prince X's to L C above Kara Admiral Sano + Yuki-Yama
(Kara kowtows - staring straight ahead)

ZAKKURI

(Smiling, in a cat-like way)
Welcome, my sublime enemy!

GUESTS

(Kowtowing)
Sublime enemy of the Empire!

ZAKKURI

By which way, Illustrious Kara, did you come?

KARA

(Looking at him fixedly)
By the Hokkaido gate!

ZAKKURI

(Still smiling serenely)
I trust I do not outrage this munificent hospitality, when I state that I had twenty spies waiting there to kill you!

KARA

(Indifferently)
Yes?

ALL

Twenty?
(They kowtow lower than before)

ZAKKURI

Tomorrow the Emperor -

1st Servant brings on table to Kara
2nd " " " " Sakkuri & Tada
3rd " " " " to Prince of Tos
4th " " " " Hassoto Soyoman
1st " goes off & returns up stage R.
2nd " " " " to Prince of Tosou
3rd " " " over R.
4th " " " R.C.

Servants place Wabashi between tables
Six Geisha enter R 4E hats off - Set
Step up C. to dress vacant places

(All kowtow save Kara)
sends me new strange muskets for my men. They let out the souls - it is said - without failing.

KARA

Yes?

(Kugo, panting and unkempt, comes from L. throwing himself at Zakkuri's feet)

KUGO

(Under his breath)
I swear he is wounded... a dozen cuts... I saw them....

ZAKKURI

But he lives!
(Stepping on him viciously)
Dogx!
(to Kara)
It is a beautiful night -
(Kara bows assent)
One to die in!

KARA

Do you die tonight?

ZAKKURI

Do you?

KARA

The Gods alone order death!
(Both kowtow politely)
(Kugo steals off)

(16 A) on Stage.
X each other, Kara to L, Sakkuri to C, guests over L & to places R alone Prince & Sakkuri.

SOLDATO

(Who has entered - aside to Zakkuri)
His swords are charmed - I saw him fight!
(During this, at the gesture from the Prince of Tosan, all seat themselves - they sit on their heels on cushions, at the tables. At the head is the host - two on three servants behind him, kneeling. A warrior stands back of him.

Tonda Tanji sits near Zakkuri, who is on the Prince's L. - Kara is on the Prince's R. - but on a raised platform in the seat of welcome. A servant places a red lantern by chair of Kara, and the red glow shines on him. As the guests take their places, servants bring on curious dishes - one enormous platter on which is an animal - another platter containing a peacock - his feathers and tail on - tail spread - a few curious bowls - steaming - the saki they pour out should also steam - Barbaric splendor. The shoji are drawn down)

Inse
Yosain
Setzu.
Kaede } Ready R. 3. E.

(A) on Stage.

X back - Dressed in R. Kimono

Geisha dress - led under-dress -
veil - hat.
lacquered

PRINCE OF T.

(Kowtowing)
Publicly, I wish to honorably acknowledge my debt to the brave Prince Kara for two lives - mine, and the Serene Princess Yo-san's.

Stop Music

PRINCE KARA (Holds up hands for silence)

Publicly then, O Noble Prince, I declare all debt between us cancelled!

Maid (~~Chamberlain~~ has poured Saki into two beautiful filmy and rare porcelain cups which stand on a salver to match - she kneels before the Prince) fills the Prince's cup - he drinks & she takes Prince's cup to Kara

(16 on stage)

PRINCE OF T.

I beg to exchange a cup with you, Prince.
(Kara offers the Prince his cup with one hand and tries to take cup of his host with his other - with a sharp breath he drops his hand - and a look of pain comes over his face) Musume x's on her knees to Kara - after she has filled his cup he has drunk.

TONDA T.

(Aside to Zakkuri, as he watches Kara) Musume fills T. I's cup -
Look! He is wounded! His arm!
(The Prince has taken Kara's cup and Kara now accepts his - using only one hand)

PRINCE OF T.

To your Gods, your ancestors, yourself!

KARA

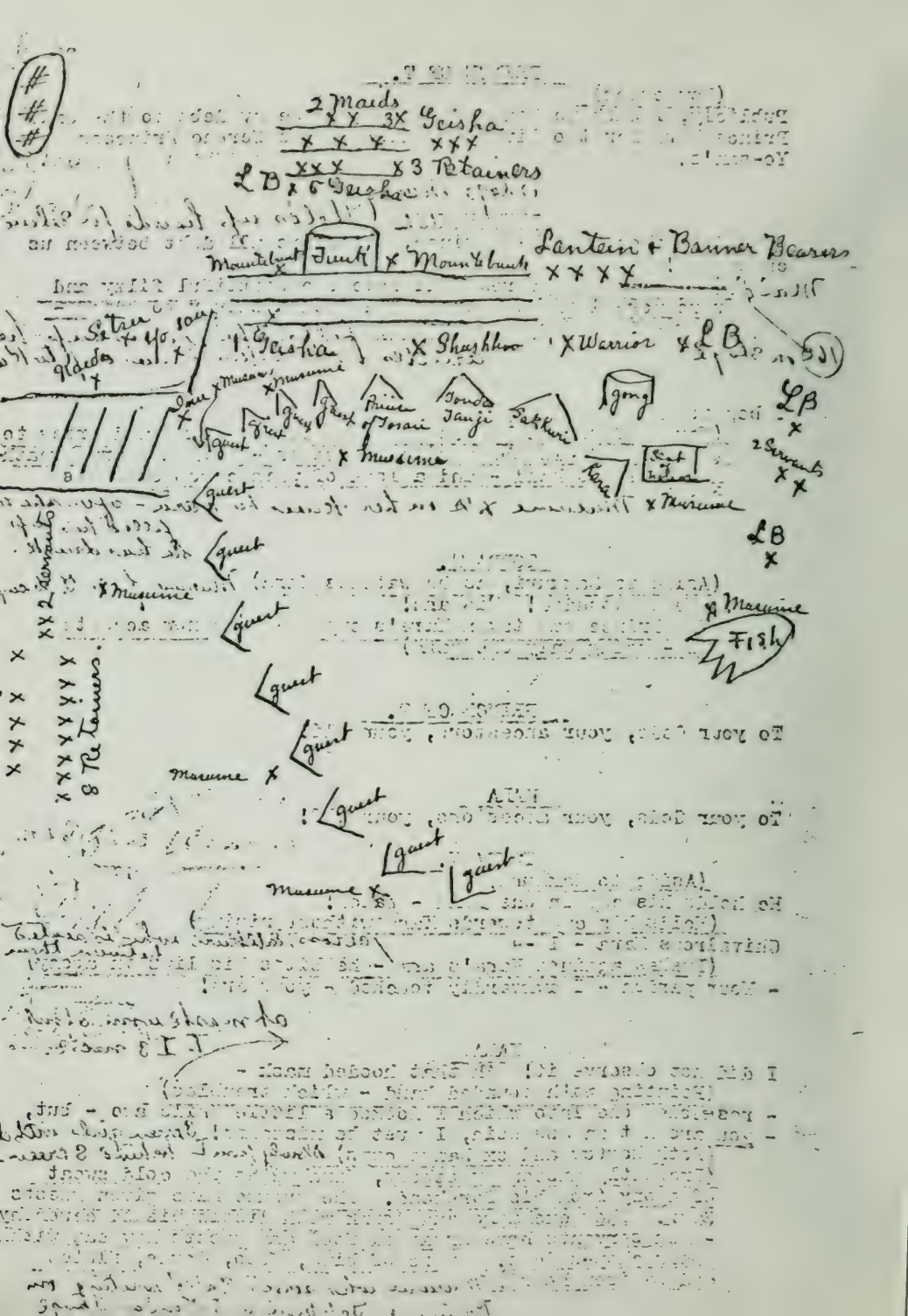
To your Gods, your ancestors, yourself!

TONDA T.

(Aside to Zakkuri)
He holds his cup in one hand - Watch!
(Holds his cup towards Kara without rising)
Chivalrous Kara - I -e across, Zakkuri who is seated between them.
(Pushes against Kara's arm - he bites his lips in agony)
- Your pardon - I awkwardly touched - your arm!

KARA

I did not observe it! Ah that hooded mask - at mask worn about T. I's neck.
(Pointing with wounded hand - which trembles)
- resembles one into which I looked a little while ago - but,
- you are not an assassin, I must be mistaken! Screen girls with drum
(Both kowtow and exchange cups) Slowly from L behind screen.
(Presently unseen by others, Kara wipes the cold sweat of agony from his forehead. The musume have given guests Saki. They exchange and drink with distinguished ceremony - men servants have arranged food and guests now eat with their chop-sticks. Music of biwa, Koto, drums, flutes and Samisen heard) Musume who served Sake' waiting on Prince + Zakkuri and Tonda - Stage


2 Maids
3X Geisha
3 Retainers
6 Geisha
Lantern + Banner Bearers
Mounted Guard
Junk
Mounted Guard
Sister + 40 Maids
Geisha
Shushka
Warrior
L B
Prince of Tosai
Bonda Janji
Sakkari
gong
Guest
Musume
Kang
Servants
L8
Fish
8 Retainers

YO-SAN

Enters (Dressed as the veiled Geisha - her veil half over her face - peeps out from the recess R. - Kaede and Setsu try to drag her back
(Aside to them)
Loose me... Inu, keep watch... I want to see... I am a geisha..
(Inu stands behind them watching her)

Inu is L of Kudda -

ZAKKURI

(Aside to Tonda Tnaji)
There is blood on his ~~cut~~! cushions
(to Kara)
Allow me to ~~pledge~~ wish you a thousand years on earth!

KARA

No, only tomorrow...

ZAKKURI

Since you insist -
(They exchange cups)
That you may see the sun rise!

KARA

No, only tonight!
(Yo-san grows bolder, and half hidden behind Inu peeks out at Kara)

ZAKKURI

Aie, Daimyo, as you are neither a cloud nor a god - when you leave here - whichever way you turn -
(Marked)
O it is death!

YO-SAN

(Draws back in fright)
Ah!

KARA

(Unmoved)
Without a doubt - Illustrious Zakkuri, I die to-night!

ZAKKURI

To the present moment, then.
(They drink - music changes to the languorous dance of the doves)

YO-SAN

(Peers forward, unseen by others, as though to see Kara's

face - Setsu reaches after her, to get her back)
No, no... I want to see this man who is to die...
(Tries to peek at his face - but when he speaks, stands still - listening)

KARA

(Stoical - facing front, not looking at anyone)
I have chosen my course -
(Speaking impassively)
Honorably pardon me for believing that there is not one here who does not envy me my swords, though you would all loyally strangle me as I sit...
(All sit motionless, rolling their eyes at each other - like graven images. Suddenly they all blow up a cloud of smoke)
Aie! I again transgress by saying that in our swords - and only there - lives yet the soul of old Japan, for which our ancestors fought and died in a thousand splendid battles! And you - you have flung aside that soul! Why? - The Emperor -

ZAKKURI

Celestial born -
(All kowtow save Kara)

KARA

- commands it at an order from the foreign friend he fears! Our country now relies upon the Imperial mob of hired defenders... Have the gods seen hired defenders fight as we have fought? I have not! Have the gods seen men protect their women and children without swords?... I have not! Whence lies the wrong that we should wish to die for our country... Whence?
(All puff as before)
Honorably permit me to say that when the last of my little band is gone - others will spring to life. You cannot kill the Samurai - the warrior - he will be re-born to his country - which he has loved and defended for twelve thousand great years. Shaka! Shaka! I pledge the war cry of our clan - "For my swords I live - by my swords I die!"
(Rises turns)

YO-SAN

(Seeing him)
Gods! The face in the lantern's light!

KARA

(To the Prince of Tosen)
I have come at command... I beg to take my swords and go!

PRINCE OF T.

(Motions to Shusshou, who presents swords to Kara)
(Clapping hands) ~~takes~~ puts them in his girdle & shusshou

Fireworks

Geisha Geisha

Geisha Geisha

Samurai

Warrior

Geisha Prince Geisha Shusseo

Guests Yonda-San Guests

Geisha Yo-San Kara

When all lights dim fireworks & Rocket - up L C.
Inu enters with lantern for Yosan & exits.

Geisha! Geisha! Lights! My guest goes forth!
(Men rise - a bevy of Geisha, splendidly dressed enter in a bunch with lanterns - then spreading out fanlike - they come to rest like fluttering leaves, forming a path at back for Kara to go. Yo-san, picking up a lantern, comes down to him, sinking at his feet. Her veil is down. Kaede and Betsu have disappeared in fright. Different shades of light fall on Yo-san and Geisha, thrown from various shoji, through colored tissue - from outside)
(The shoji at back is now open)

KARA

(Proudly - leaning on his sword to conceal his failing strength)
I claim my right, O Prince, of going in the darkness.

PRINCE OF T.

Granted, Illustrious Kara!
(Claps hands)
(Scene begins to darken as Geisha move off with lanterns at a signal from Shusshoo)
(Taking his place in door-way, kowtowing)
Sayonara.

KARA

Sayonara!
(Musume gradually carry off rest of lanterns)

ZANKURI

(Aside to Kugo who has entered)
By whichever gate he leaves he must pass Kanzachi Forks - There....
(Kugo passes out)

TONDA T.

(Insolently swaggering to Kara - apart from others - only Yo-san overhearing)
The Princess Yo-san has set me a task to-night... and to-morrow when I shall have accomplished it - she will name our wedding day. Drink!
(Presents two cups - Yo-san sinks lower, catching at her heart)

KARA

(Waving cups away)
An outlaw never counts upon the morrow --

TONDA T.

Shall we drink that you may win the face in the lantern's light?

KARA

(Taking a cup)
That you may not!

TONDA T.

(Angrily)
Ah!
(Does not drink - sets bowl down & draws in his breath politely and exit)
(Stage is now almost in darkness. Guests have picked up some of the table wares at their places, follow Geisha amid a shower of golden rice and fire-works - stealing off like grim shadows - hissing between their teeth in salutation to Kara - forming a shadowy picture. The screen of silk is drawn across the room. All are now off - the only light in the room comes from Yo-san's lantern. A weird melody is heard. Kara's manner changes - With a hunted look, he glances about the room, then raises his sword on the defensive and starts to go - With a groan of pain his long sword falls. As he realizes that he is too wounded to fight)

KARA

(In a half whisper)
Ah! I can no longer fight...
(Unfastens his houri, throws it off, showing bloody and cut mail shirt and clothing underneath)
I die - by my own sword... QC M.
(Tries to lift his small sword with his right hand, cannot raise it - takes his left)

YO-SAN

(Who has been watching him, her veil thrown back, now realizing what he is doing, grasps his arms - her Kimono falling from her shoulders)
Ah!
looking Kimona — dropping veil —

KARA

(Seizing her lantern holds up — gazing into her face)
Gods!

YO-SAN

(Gazing back)
Gods!
(After an instantly pause)
I have given you all my soul - Have I yours?

KARA

You had it in that flash of light upon Hakone. (drops lantern)

Hosting Prisoner —
displeasing Will —

(22)

Go — Save

"Take him behind my shoji quick,
they dare not look for him behind my
shoji he will be safe — ad lib "quickly, quickly
Dance etc!

YO-SAN

Then here in your presence -
(Bows)
Oh, my beloved, I stand with my sandals off - your slave!
(Steps out of her sandals)
I will save you!

KARA

I am wounded...
(Staggers against shrine)

YO-SAN

(Pityingly)
Ah!
(She gives him her veil to staunch the blood, then suddenly as though though hearing something)
Sh!
(Yoban is heard - singing a Japanese song - he passes outside (unseen) at back and putting out the one or two remaining lights, passes off singing)
There is a safe way - by the Jizo shrine - where women worship - the wall is broken - we must go quickly in the dark!
Come... come....

KARA

(Sinking down by the shrine)
I am dying!

YO-SAN

No! No! Kara!
(On her knees beside him with uplifted hands)
Shaka!
(Inu comes into the darkness from R. with a torch)
(With a glad cry)
Inu!

INU

(With a gutteral sound, points to shoji at back - on which is seen the shadow of Migaku, one of Zakkuri's spies) with a lantern)

YO-SAN

(In a half whisper)
Put out the light!
(As Inu's torch goes out, she darkens the lantern - her eyes riveted on shadow - The room is in darkness save for a little stream of light from the top of the shrine which falls on Yo-san - The shadow is seen listening outside the shoji)

SCENE CHANGES:

Act II

Discovered Man in the Lantern

Tonda Tanji

Icho

Taro

Kugo

Ato

Kojin

Goto

Shita

Goto

Icho

MAN IN LANTERN

Shita

Tonda Tanji

ATO

KOJIN TARO

Kugo

Act II

~~SCENE~~ 11.

Kanzachi Forks - within the shadow of the Gates.

SCENE: A cross-roads or pass, showing a triangular point of rock which has been hewn down out of the side of the hill to let the cross-roads pass. There is a stream crossed by a curved bridge.

(23) On a rise of ground is a huge, old and weather-beaten stone votive lantern. This is about twelve feet high. Some of its sculpture is sufficiently projective for a watcher to stand upon - or he can be in the inside looking through opening. There is a heavy wood. A few flowers show, phantom-like. Noise of the running water in the gorge, as it falls over some huge boulders. This water, in the upper part of the fall can be seen, blue and misty. A dim moon shines ghostily. It is opaque and gives but little light. As the scene comes into view, the wierd melody which has been heard, ceases, and only a far off temple bell sounds proclaiming the hour of the ox - (two o'clock) A preliminary stroke of ~~three~~, then a pause - then eight bells.) TWO

DISCOVERED: KUGO stands motionless in the road - his hood mask by his side - looking off R. - the other six spies are watching different roads - some wear hooded masks, some handkerchiefs worn as masks. These spies are of the low order of coolies. Kojin, with a torch, stands conspicuously at back. In the lighted lantern - a man's face is seen, peering out of its frame, from R. to L. as he looks for his signals. All give the appearance of having been watching for some time. Tonda Tanji is sitting on the ground-his hood mask by his side - his fan just poised as if arrested at the tolling of the bell.

The scene is intensely quiet - every one statuesque. Not being an emotional scene, the stolidity of the Japanese is brought out, every word being spoken with precision and childish simplicity.

Man in the lantern calling as the bell ends - in a high, sing-song ~~xxxxx~~ voice)

MAN IN LANTERN

It is the hour of the ox!

TONDA-TANJI

Two o'clock! Shaka! How he lags!
(Fanning himself)

II

Ready Sakthri
4 Guards
Lantern bearer
} off 2 E

But he shall not this time, Young excellency.

KUGO

(Without moving)
All lag on the way to death, Young Excellency.

TONDA-TANJI

(To man in the lantern)
You in the lantern! No sign of him?

MAN IN LANTERN

No sign, Lord!

TONDA TANJI

And I might be in Geisha street with my head in a beauty's lap - beast of an outlaw!

KUGO

This Kara has trickled through my fingers like moonlight, Excellency.
(Illustrating)
(But this time - we shall not fail!) There are four gates from the Prince of Toran's Yashaki - and through one of them, he must pass!
(There is a weird sound off such as a runner would make)

RUNNER

(Off)
Hai, hai, hai, hai -
(Far and shrill)
(Signalman holds up his torch as though to say "there". All face to R.)

MAN IN LANTERN

Runner from the Eastern Gate!

KUGO

That is the first!

MAN IN LANTERN

(Repeating stolidly)
Signals that Kara has not passed that gate! -

TONDA T.

Yebis! And I lie here, food for gnats!
(Strikes at one or two and then brushes fan as though to sweep gnats away)
I shall ask my August Uncle to torture him!

KUGO

Aie! - if he be taken alive, we will give him the green miner-

al... he will dream that he is falling - more swift than meteor's flash - millions of miles... as though into the eighth Hell!...

TONDA TANJI

Kejo! (as though anxious to whet his rage on Kara)
Kejo!
(To the man in the lantern)
Is there no sign, Tcho?

MAN IN LANTERN

There is a mist... I cannot see.
(By this time a mist is settling - as though coming up from the gorge)
Wait...
(All show interest)

KOJIN

There is a torch coming in the road -
(Noise of an approach very far away)

2nd RUNNER

Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai!
(Nearer and nearer)
(Signal man raises his torch)

MAN IN LANTERN

(Impassively as before)
Runner from the Northern Gate, signals he has not passed.

TONDA T.

Dog!
There is but one more gate. (Trembling)

MAN IN LANTERN

(Looking to L:)
Arrival!

(24) M orch.

VOICES

(Several voices of spies, turning to L.)
Arrival!
(All stand peering curiously)
Arrival!

KUGO

(To Man in the Lantern)
Who is it? Who passes?
(At his gesture, the spies step back into the shadow) R

Tonda-Tanji alone

MAN IN LANTERN

(Peering) Turns out Lantern
The mist... Now --
(A slight pause - music)
His Excellency, the Minister of War.
(All remove their masks and kowtow, as Zakkuri enters with a body guard of four carrying lanterns)

ALL

Augustness! :
Lord! : Together
Excellency! :
Master! :

ZAKKURI

(Looking them all over, coolly)
No! No! You are kept waiting!

TONDA T.

(Fanning himself violently)
He has the insolence!

ZAKKURI

(As though his attention were distracted off)
- Sssh!
(Holds up hand to Tonda-Tanji)
(In the distance is heard the cry of a runner - then coming nearer - Signalman raises torch)
Hai! Hai! Hai!!!

MAN IN LANTERN

Runner from the Nikko Gate - he has not passed.

KUGO

There is but one more gate. (Trembling)

MAN IN LANTERN

A runner.

ZAKKURI

The last gate!

TONDA T.

The last gate!

ZAKKURI

Well?

Mi gatter ready off RIE

MAN IN LANTERN

He has not passed!

ZAKKURI

What, What is that?

MAN IN LANTERN

(Stolidly repeating)
He has not passed that gate!

ZAKKURI

(Turning furiously upon Kugo)
Gods! What have you to say?

KUGO

He has slipped out through the mist.

ZAKKURI

(Striking him down, kicking him)
Yebisu! You rat! You twisted back - you worm!
(Then looking straight before him - immovable)
Ojin-Tenno protect me... for I sent word to the Celestial Emperor that I had taken him... and you have lost him for me in the mist -
(strikes him)
Jigoju!

MAN IN LANTERN

Arrival! A man comes this way!

ZAKKURI

Ah!

TONDA T.

It is he!

ZAKKURI

Be ready!
(All go on guard)
(Zakkuri turns his back & Tonda Tanji and spies draw back masks - Tonda-Tanji takes nearest place - They all listen - there is no sound. Signalmen hides torch behind a rock. The spies are clustered in a group, making a guttural sound - their weapons ready - their faces drawn - they front the road by which he will come)

MAN IN LANTERN

He runs... now he pauses... pauses.

KUGO

(His ear to the ground)
His feet ring unsteadily - he is spent...

MAN IN LANTERN

He starts again... he comes... I see a figure in the mist...

ZAKKURI

Ssh!
(Footsteps now heard off L. - coming nearer and nearer - then heavy breathing of an exhausted man, and Migaku dashes on - Tonda-Tanji and the pack of spies strike at him - with a gutteral sound)
Ah!
(Migaku all in black with a zblack mask hood raises his arms as though to sheild his head - his arms are encaged in armor and the blows ring out on it - he calls "Master" and falls at Zakkuri's feet)
Fools! Back! Migaku speak!
(Spies have recognized him and drawn back)

MIGAKU

I am he you set to watch --

ZAKKURI

Take breath...

MIGAKU

The shoji of the palace - lest he should --
(Out of breath)

ZAKKURI

Go on!

MIGAKU

... slink among the shadows...

ZAKKURI

Go on!

MIGAKU

... He... has not left the Yashaki.

ZAKKURI

(His face insérutable in the moonlight)
Not left....

TONDA T.

Impossible!

MAN IN LANTERN

The gates are closed for the night!

TONDA T.

If the Prince gives sanctuary beyond the obligation - his life will pay!

KUGO

(Turning on Migaku)

You lost him, Migaku - you! He left ~~a~~ and you lie --

(to spies) who rush forward.

Kill him!

(As spies surround Migaku, who screams, Zakkuri raises his hand in protest)

ZAKKURI

No!

(Spies fall back - save Migaku who cringes)

He does not lie!...

(To Tonda T., holding up his finger - with a look of cunning)

Yo-san!

(Tonda Tanji is struck - as the scene goes out in the darkness - Zakkuri remains immovable - smiling - his finger still upraised - repeats with more certainty)

Yo-san!

except Lantern.

(26)

SCENE CHANGES.

Scene II Act II

Discovered Inn

Yo-San

Ready - Setzu 1 E

Watchman R 4 E

4 Scene —

Discovered Ed Rimona

Fastened across the balustrade

Scene II

(28)

SCENE III.

(As the lights go up, we see the shoji of Yo-san among the moon-flowers. Her apartments are on the left. The only lights are those burning faintly behind the shoji... The steps leading from her door have a heavy bar across the bottom. Wisteria and moon-flowers cover her balcony. Growing R. is lotus which stretches down to shore of a little lotus pond crossed by a curved bridge. A large urn is on balcony R. A silvery moon shines - touching the pond)

MUSIC - Air of Song.

"Nothing ever changed since the days of the Gods,
Water runs the same, love goes the same -
Nothing hence will change - 'til the Gods come again,
Water still will flow - love still will go,
The same."

DISCOVERED: INU is curled up like a watch dog on the mat, on the last step leading to Yo-san's balcony. The shadow of Yo-san is seen on the shoji stealing across the room towards the balcony. She cautiously opens the shoji and peers out, calling softly)

Red Riviona -

YO-SAN

Inu!

(Inu, sitting upright, looks at her)

See if my Father sleeps... there is a light across the courtyard...

(Looks toward R.)

(Inu rises and going off R.)

(Yo-san half whispers - half calls)

Setsu! Setsu!

(Setsu's shadow is seen passing the shoji carrying a lantern - she appears)

(Points to a jar of incense on the top step leading from balcony)

Light the incense to keep away dangers, and devils!

(Shivers)

(Setsu lights it from lantern)

One must watch tonight the face that sleeps inside as though dead - and one must pray -

(In a whisper)

pray always.

SETSU

(Whimpers)

I am afraid...

Ready

Miyaku R4E

Kugo

Sakkuri

Tonda Tonje

Goto

Tchio

Kojiu

all R4E

Change to Ruerikbrer Rd-Rellonz.

YO-SAN

(Looking off L.)

Sh! Do you wish all our women to hear?

(Pointing down steps)

Look! Look! He!

(Setsu is going down to the spot to which Yo-san is pointing)

The rankan

(Pronounced raun-kaun)

is covered with blood where Inu carried him in --

SETSU

(Looking at spot - shrinking back)

Aie!

YO-SAN

Bring water!

(Exit Setsu)

(A watchman passes with a peculiar cry - he carries a lantern and a stick with a chain which he rattles - he crosses the bridge and his cry dies away in the distance)

(Yo-san has shrunk back into the shadow as he passes, now steps out, looks after the watchman, then looks about)

In all these worlds, there are but two things tonight - love and death!

(Puts hands in attitude of prayer - kneels in a ray of moonlight)

O Shaka! Whose eye has seen what I have done - Kindly permit that I bring him into my prayers for safety. Do not forget, O Shaka!

(Holds up her finger)

Do not forget, O beautiful Shaka - us!

(The form of Migaku is seen on the bridge coming over noiselessly - his face in the mask hood, his sandals in his hand. Yo-san continues, not seeing him)

And to my thousand ancestors, I say a nembut su... a nembut su ... keep it! Keep it! Keep it!

(Migaku draws up his loose trousers - wades across edge of pond and stealing up to side of balcony, climbs it and wetting his finger at his lips he puts it through the shoji - peeping in. His upraised hands and startled face tell that he has seen Kara. Yo-san has heard the cracking of the shoji and half turning her head, sees him without changing her position. As Migaku steals off balcony he runs to bridge and into the arms of Inu who has re-entered. Inu choking him into silence - stabs him with his own knife - throwing him into the lotuses in the moat under the bridge... Yo-san, who has watched all this, but remained in the same attitude, now seeing other forms coming over the bridge, continues impressively in same voice)

Look down, O Shaka - see - and quickly - in the Yashiki of the Prince of Tosan - near Yeddo - where I kneel - one small woman prays to you against the evil that comes - now!... Do not pass by, O Shaka... Look! Look! Look! Now!

(Retreats behind shoji which close - Inu has taken his

place on the mat as before)
(Kugo, carrying a curious torch or lantern, precedes Zakkuri and Tonda-Tanji - who have crossed bridge - the heads of the spies are seen looking over the bend of bridge where they remain - almost ghost-like in the shadow)

ZAKKURI

(In a low voice)
Across the court-yard...
(Looking off R.)
It is dark --

TONDA T.

(Looking off R.)
The palace is dark.

ZAKKURI

(to Kugo)
Begin where he last stood by the seat of honor and follow from there.

~~KUGO~~ Tonda-Tanje

(Shielding his lantern with his hat)
Lord, we have forced our way past the gate men - Pardon, I am afraid...

ZAKKURI

Begin from there...
(Points)
(Kugo, stepping out of his sandals, goes off with the lantern blinded - the Koto plays softly within. Setsu sings)

SETSU

"Nothing ever changed since the days of the Gods,
Water runs the same, love goes the same -
(Tonda T. attracted by the singing, turns, pauses, seeing Inu on the mat - gestures to Zakkuri that someone is there - the singing continues)
Nothing hence will change 'til the gods come again,
Water still shall flow, love still will go -
The same!"
(During the song - while Zakkuri and Tonda T. are watching for the return of Kugo - Yo-san opens the shoji, showing a white terrified face. The lights in the room go out... faint light from rear. At final chord, Kugo returns looking with lantern at the ground. The Koto continues the air with no voice)

KUGO

I follow him from where he stood last - across the court-yard

place on the mob as before)

(Lure, carrying a burning torch or lantern, preceded by Ignorant and Innocent - who have crossed hither - the heads of the mobs are seen looking over the bank of [illegible] - [illegible] - [illegible] ghost-like in the shadow)

MAGDALEN

(In a low voice)

Across the court-yard...

(Looking off L.)

it is dark --

TOMMY T.

(Looking off R.)

The palace is dark.

MAGDALEN

(In Tones)

Begin where he first stood by the seat of power and follow this story.

Trade - Tony

(Modulating his speaking with his hat)

Lord, we have waited for ... Peat the [illegible] position, I am afraid...

Setup ready I 2E

(30)

MAGDALEN

Begin from there...

(Waits)

(Suddenly, stepping out of his meadow, crawl off with the [illegible] - [illegible] - [illegible] within. Same place)

...

GUESTS

Nothing ever changed since the days of the Gods,
Water runs the same, leaves green the same -
(Pause - [illegible] for the [illegible], turns, [illegible], peering
Low on the [illegible] - [illegible] that someone is
there - the [illegible] [illegible])
Nothing dance will [illegible] the [illegible] again,
Water still shall flow, love's ill will [illegible] -
[illegible]!

(During the song - [illegible] and Tommy T. are watching for the return of Tuo - Yo-San where the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. The lights in the room go on... [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. At first [illegible], Tuo re-turns looking with [illegible] at the [illegible]. The moto con-tinues [illegible] with [illegible])

TUO

I follow his from where he stood last - across the court-yard

- sometimes being carried, sometimes rested... to here... The blood stains show that - and there were two who walked, - besides.

TONDA T.

Two?

ZAKKURI

One was a woman?

KUGO

By the foot prints... yes. All lead in - none out... they stop here - where the stones begin... See!
(Turns his lantern on flagging at foot of steps)

ZAKKURI

(Quietly)
Go up!
(Points - Kugo goes in fear)
(Inu rises in his way, his face dogged, showing that he will fight to the death)

INU

(Savagely)
Ugh!
(Claps his hands as though to attract attention behind the shoji - and faces Kugo - the Koto stops suddenly)

ZAKKURI

(As before)
Go up!
(~~Yo-san puts~~ Setsu, Koto in hand, out of the shoji and stands back of her, where those below cannot see her - and the audience can - trembling, and listening)

SETSU

Who dares disturb my Honorable Mistress after I had begun the night-song that lulls her to exalted sleep?

ZAKKURI

I look to the safety of your Serene Mistress... There is an outlaw in this Yashiki

SETSU

(Guiltily)
Ahh!

ZAKKURI

His amazing cunning has led him to these rooms I fear. Beg your Mistress to veil her face while my ignominious duty compels me to search.

SETSU

Ah!

(Disappears frightened behind the curtains)

ZAKKURI

(To Kugo)

Take down the Barrier!

(Inu darts to bell which hangs from a bamboo arm at one corner of the balcony - and pulls the rope several times)

ZAKURI

Inu!

(With gutteral rage)

Inu!

KUGO

Silence!

(Kugo has taken the bar down and as he starts to go up steps, Setsu cried out - her head out of shoji. Inu darts forward with bar uplifted)

VOICE OF PRINCE OF TOSAN

(Off R.)

Yo-san!

TONDA-T.

Gods! The Prince of Tosan... he is awakened.

VOICE OF PRINCE OF T.

Yo-san! Yo-san! My daughter... what is it?

(Setsu disappears - Inu and all, pause)

(Voice nearer)

Yo-san!

TONDA T.

Let us go!...

ZAKURI

Wait!..

(Prince enters - followed by retainers and a lantern-bearer. He has a gown thrown over his clothing as though he had begun to undress)

(Inu holds out his arms appealingly to the Prince)

RAMONI

His amazing swordplay has led him to these rooms I fear. Hon your Highness to veil her face while my ignominious duty compels me to search.

BUTCH

Ah!

(Dancers are frightened behind the curtain)

DANCER

(To Yo-s)

Take down the barrier!

(I'm ready to tell which house from a bamboo one at one corner of the balcony - and quite the room several times)

MARCHI

Ium!

(With natural voice)

Ium!

Yo-San ready I 2 E.

SILO

Silence!

(Ium has taken the bar down and he starts to go up stage, Butch grabs to it - her head out of sight). Ium darts forward with her hatchet)

VOICE OF DAIMON OF TOKAN

(Off R.)

Yo-san!

ROMA-T.

Gods! The Pirrika of Tokan... he is awakened.

VOICE OF MARCHI ON R.

Yo-san! Yo-san! My daughter... where is it?

(Ium drops - Ium pull, pause)

(Voice nearer)

Yo-san!

ROMA-T.

Let us go!...

DANCER

Wait!..

(Voices nearer - followed by rotch, are and a lantern. Lantern. Ium's hand out through over is clothing as through is at loom to weaves)

(Ium holds out the same against the tapestry)

PRINCE OF T.

(Seeing Zakkuri)

Zakkuri! What? Are not my gates closed?

(The heads of spies that have been peering over the bond og bridge - now disappe ar)

Is a Prince no longer safe within his own walls? Sanctuary! You have broken sanctuary - you have stolen like a thief in the night under my daughter's very shoji!

ZAKKURI

Prince of Princes, give me Kara and I will go!

PRINCE OF T.

(At first astounded)

Give you -- Is it possible, Zakkuri - you say that I conceal the outlaw!

ZAKKURI

(With a cat-like smile)

He was here - he has not gone... he was wounded... Men do not vanish like mist. Beyond the shoji of the Princess, where the night light burns

(Pointing)

I have it in my mind I --

PRINCE OF T.

What? What? You dare --

(As the full significance of Zakkuri's words break upon him)

Gods!

(Enraged, raising both hands to him)

Miscreant! Traducer! You dare cast doubt upon the sanctuary of a veiled and guarded woman - of all things the most immaculate! No! Dog - to your teeth I give back the shame! A Princess of the House of Tosan sleeps behind those shoji - even an outlaw would never violate that place, more sacred than the altars of our Gods! The Emperor himself, could not enter unless he proved his right!

(Standing in place of barrier, his hands outstretched as though to protect Yo-san, who unseen by others - shows a white, terrified face at the shoji)

My daughter's honored name is beyond the shadow of evil. Look for your wounded outlaw elsewhere - or by Shaka, Zakkuri - I -

(His hand rests on balcony - almost involuntarily he holds up his hand to see what it is touching - as he does so it is open and in full view - blood is seen)

Gods!

(Kugo holds up the lantern, which shines on his hand)

ZAKKURI

(Fanning himself with a smile)

There is my right... that blood on your hand... In the Emperor's name -

5th place –

Blue & silver Remora –

Hair unbound –

Sword

Rapier –

PRINCE OF T.

(Seeing Mordred)

Mordred! What! Did not my orders clear this?
(The bonds of spies that have
of bridge - now dissolve at)
Is a Prince no longer safe within his own walls?
You have broken sanctuary - you have stolen like a thi
night under my daughter's very eyes!!

MORDRED

Prince of Princes, give me Mars and I will go!

PRINCE OF T.

(At first astounded)

Give you -- Is it possible, Mordred - you say that I conceal
the outlaw!

MORDRED

(With a cat-like smile)

He was here - he has not gone... He was wounded... Men do not
vanish like mice. Beyond the walls of the Princess, before the
night light burns
(Pointing)
I have it in my mind I --

PRINCE OF T.

What? What? You dare --
(As the full significance of Mordred's words breaks upon
him)
date!
(Enraged, relaxing both hands to him)
Miscreant! Murderer! You dare cast doubt upon the sanctuary
of a veiled and guarded woman - of all things the most inno-
cuous! No! Dog - to your kennels I give back the blame! A
Princess of the Blood of Lorna Alpha that place, more sacred than the
sanctuary would never violate that place, more sacred than the
altars of our dead! The Dragon Lizard, could not enter
unless he proved his right!
(Striking in place of murder, his hands outstretched as
slowly to Mordred, the man, who appears his object - shows a
[illegible] fear at the sight)
Mr. Mordred's business must be against the shadow of evil. Look
for your wounded outlaw elsewhere - or by Shade, Mordred - I -
(His hand reaches a dagger - almost involuntarily he holds
up his hand [illegible] - as he does so
it is seen and in full view - blood is upon)
Date!
(Dropping suddenly the dagger, which strikes on his hand)

MORDRED

(Turning [illegible] with a smile)

There is my right... that I have in your hand... In the Dragon-
cave -

(Bows)
I will enter!
(Starts as Yo-san in her loose night robe - open at the throat - with negligent girlishness - carrying little sword and a candle - her hair down, and tangled about her face - appears on balcony as though just awakened. Setsu looks out of shoji - Zakkuri has paused)

YO-SAN

Father!

PRINCE OF T.

(Horrified)
Yo-san!
(The retainers and lantern bearer retire off, as though awed at sight of a Princess appearing unveiled, in deshabille, and at that hour. Kugo crosses bridge, but lingers beyond centre - his head and the lantern just showing - Tonda T. retreats towards bridge - their backs to Yo-san)

YO-SAN

Forgive my appearing here - no obi -- (31)
(Hands candle to Setsu - modestly draws her robe about her)
- no veil - but I am much frightened... while I slept a man broke my shoji and looked through ... Inu killed him - there where you stand !
(Tonda T. halts. The Prince looks from his hand to Yo-san - Inu holds up the body of Higaku from the lotus by the moat - as though it had drifted nearer shore)
(The water drips from his face - the light of the moon throwing a greenish ray upon it... Kugo, reaching over the bridge, holds up his lantern in Higaku's face - all look. Setsu withdraws)

PRINCE OF T.

(To Zakkuri)
Is this one of your spies?

ZAKKURI

(Puzzled - but with craft)
He derserved his miserable death - if he were not killed for - what he saw!
(Music in the orchestra but out of sight - carrying with it much suspense - Keeping well under the dialogue)

O Stop

PRINCE OF T.

My daughter, the zealous Zakkuri dared to say that an outlaw - Kara - sought shelter behind your shoji... Answer...

ZAKKURI

Upon oath... before Shaka!

(All kowtowing save the Prince, who resents the insult)

PRINCE OF T.

Zakkuri!

ZAKKURI

(Craftily)

I am but the servant of the Emperor who must have the truth --

PRINCE OF T.

(To Yo-san)

Before Shaka!

(All kowtow)

YO-SAN

(Holding up incense)

Before Shaka, God of life and death - to whom my word goes up on this incense - I swear, hanging my life on the answer - I have not seen this Kara!

(Simply)

With much shame, I ask you, how could I? Since I am dressed for sleep?

PRINCE OF T.

(In a low voice to Zakkuri)

Shame!... You hear (31½) MA

ZAKKURI

(Retreating towards bridge and kowtowing to Prince)

Lord of Tosan, I was too zealous for the Emperor! -

(Turns look at Yo-San then exits up bridge.)

~~- You shall hear of this!~~

ZAKKURI

(Fawning - to Yo-san)

May the Gods give you sleep!

(Kowtowing, Zakkuri, Tonda-T. and Kuge disappear from bridge)

(The Prince of T. has ignored his kowtowing)

PRINCE OF T.

(Raising his hand)

My daughter! The Goddess of good dreams visit you!

(Goes off R.) Two lantern bearers, run on, looking out before him.

(Inu lies on his mat)

YO-SAN

(Without moving, wiping the tears from her impassive face with her fingers)

It is better to lie a little, than to be unhappy muhh.

(Orchestra plays refrain of the song)

"Nothing ever changed, since the days of the Gods,
Water flows the same, love goes the same -
Nothing whence will change 'til the Gods come again,
Water still will flow, love still go,
The same!"

C U R T A I N .

6th scene –

Lavender kimona –
Red foot R – Hair down –
purple flowers –

Pages handled.

Clap sticks –
Pipe & tobacco stand,

Kamio –

Parchment.
arrow & parchment –

Discovered.

Yo-sam
Kara
Setsu.
Iwa

A C T 11.

Forty days later. Behind the shoji of Yo-san's sanctuary.

"The Fate hour."

SCENE: The room contains a shrine to Buddha in an alcove at back, with kneeling cushions in front of it - incense floats up from it. Also a chest of drawers in alcove - up R.- the Tokonoma - Makamono, flowers growing in porcelain or bronze vases called Koro - in the Tokonoma - on shrine is a Kamyio made of ivory containing Japanese lettering. A small breakfast table with tea-pot, bowls and chop sticks. A pair of little sandals stand at the door and kneeling cushions and mats are about. Shoji are closed - the sunlight giving them a pinkish tinge. Music playing Yo-san's refrain, tenderly - full of love - continuing softly after the curtain is up)

(33)

DISCOVERED: YO-SAN and KARA are at the small breakfast table, both sitting on cushions on the floor. Kara's mail is off, he wears his negligée robe over his Kimono. This is open a trifle on the shoulder, showing his under clothing. His arm is in a sling made of a quaint Japanese handkerchief. Yo-san in an attitude of abandon, is half lying in Kara's arms... A Koto, (a ground piano) is near her. She is reading a red book, bound in Japanese style.

SETSU, kneeling on a mat, bowing low, holds out a bowl in one hand, a pair of chop-sticks in the other. INU, kneeling bowing, holds out the tea-pot and a cup - Both have the air of being accustomed to the love-making, but not approving of it. At a certain strain in the music, Yo-san reads)

YO-SAN

"In the clouds there is a lady -
Mother is it you?
In the clouds there is a soldier -
Father is it you?
In the clouds there is a lover -
Is it - is it - you?"
(Puts her lips to Kara's - there is a silence)

SETSU

The fish is cold, Exalted Princess!

(Inu grunts, gesturing with tea-pot)

YO-SAN

Yes...

(Dips her chop stick in a flake of it - as she turns a leaf - Kara lets Inu pour tea in his cup, but he sets it down untasted)

YO-SAN

Strange, how much to our liking are the things in this learned Am-eri-kin red book... the em-ber-aces with arms - and - Be pleased to turn away your head, Setsu -

(She gestures to Inu - they both look away, wanting to look back - Yo-san illustrates by kiss)

- those ki-esses.

(Snuggling to Kara)

(to Kara)

Is it not worth a little lie to my Father for this honorable familiarity with you?

KARA

My darling of the gods - Buddha has forgiven it!

(Inu and Setsu are holding out dishes)

(Setsu sniffs, shocked)

Never once did you peek while I was being painted and arrayed.

(Setsu puts up her fan)

Oh your manners are perfect - so are mine!

(to others)

Say so!

~~SETSU~~

~~Ugh!~~

(She looks at her, she quickly passes a dish)

SETSU

(With deep humility)

Your much exalted father -

(All bow)

is long away on a mission for the Celestial Emperor -

(The women and Inu kowtow)

Kaede, teacher of manners, is ill and gone back to her people - some one must say - these ki-esses and em-ber-aces are not decorous!

(Bows to the floor)

YO-SAN

Do the gods say so? Why am I left in this sweet peace?

SETSU

I arranged this sweet peace by giving out that you were doing

solitary penances for your August Father's
(bows)
- safe return - not - for - this!
(Half crying)

YO-SAN

How sweetly you lie!
(to Kara)
Say so!

SETSU

Inu, keep watch! Shaka! These days are full of fears and terrors...
(Turning to Yo-san who is still gazing rapturously at Kara)
(Stolidly)
The rice is quite worthless,

(34) Off on Stage.

YO-SAN

I do not care for breakfast...
(Fanning)
Immediately my eyes saw you, Kara, I promised to myself to marry you...
(Setsu goes off with a dish)

KARA

(Drawing her tenderly to him)
It was a vast happiness to me.
(Inu has gone to shoji and sentinel-like, watches)
(Setsu again holds out a dish)
(In the distance is heard a song, sung to a Koto - Kara and Yo-san speak through it - it dies away)

Oh - floats our boat
Upon the moat -
Tore -
Tontororí!

The moon up there,
The moon down here - ?
Tontoro -
Tontororí!

Or, is it sea or is it sky?
The earth or heaven?
Gods! Care not I!
Upon my breast your head -
You sigh -
Tontororí!

YO-SAN

I am glad I gave up twenty lovers for you!

KARA

Twenty!

SETSU

(To Kara, shaking her head)
Ai, no! No!

YO-SAN

Oh yes, the night you came, beloved, I had decided to lead the beautiful life of a courtesan!

KARA

What?

YO-SAN

For one night, at least... for I gathered that I would be nobly dedicated to love.

KARA

Oh...
(Bowing his forehead on her two hands, which he holds)
The gods adore you as I do! - They have made you to misunderstand!
(She sits meekly ~~in front of~~ him - sighs)
(Setsu goes off with a dish)

YO-SAN

~~Lord of my heart, in some other universe you have been a large stone.~~ We ~~shall be exquisitely happy~~, when we are married, I shall wear dark clothes and always meet you at the gates with Ki-esses and all my children will be yours!

KARA

Yo-san! Yo-san! Your hair - your lips - are more perilous than a thousand enemies!
(Touches her hair)

YO-SAN

I will read again of this new thing love!
(Setsu, who has re-entered ~~with a bowl~~, ~~and knelt, holding it out~~, now sniffs at them with disapproval. Yo-san looks at her, she bows innocently and setting down the bowl, picks up the tea-pot and cup. Yo-san takes cup of tea from her and hands it to Kara, absently)
To what most high degree,
(Looking in book)
My be-loved - do you love me?

KARA

(Tea-cup at his lips)

Is that question in the book, delicious one?

YO-SAN

Pst!

(As Setsu is not looking)

No!

(During following Kara eats a little, his left arm about her, reaching behind her... business during following of Setsu handing her things and she absently passing them to Kara - Setsu shaking her head hopelessly)

KARA

Oh... to the extent, my Princess, of the witchery of the moon, the mist on the brooks, the foming seas.

YO-SAN

Not enough...

(Seeing Setsu sniff)

The book says so... see -

(Pretending to show him)

(Kara, smiling, sips tea)

The book -

(Tapping her cheek)

is very hard to please.

(Imitating her)

Say so!

YO-SAN

I make this the extent of my love. I add the gold and silver fishes and give back to you your moon and brook and foaming seas...

KARA

(Shaking head)

Not enough.

YO-SAN

Hai! Hai!

(Clapping hands, laughing)

Oh!

(Annoyed, seeing dish Setsu is patiently holding out, taking it, keeping it in her hand without touching it)

Take the tiniest child fishes, too. Hai! Hai!

(Laughs gleefully)

KARA

Not enough, my lady of delight!

YO-SAN

Exacting Prince of splendors, I add a mountain made of all the

petals of all the blossoms of all the cherry trees in all the worlds! Hai-i! - that is something? - Even more! - On that I set a volcano with its glittering eye.

(Hands the dish back to Setsu without looking at it - she exclaims and presently Inu turns, looks at Kara and getting out his swords, begins to polish them markedly, standing where Kara will see him)

KARA

Still not enough --

YO-SAN

(Gently - struck)

Oh!... I have...

(Pouring out tea in her cup which she takes from Setsu) confined our love to the things of this one little life - when the next one is three hundred times longer than that!

KARA

Truly things of this world all wait their fate hour just as you and I must wait ours.

YO-SAN

(Shrinking as though the words were ominous)

Aie, I do not like that fate hour.

KARA

(Taking away bowl)

O by Shaka, by beautiful death, in all the lives that follow until the worlds in which we each shall live pile up --

YO-SAN

- like Fuji-Yama --

KARA

- I shall love you!

YO-SAN

(Seriously, taking his cup away, a look of yearning on her face)

But after that?

KARA

There is a sleep in Shaka's bosom that follows after the last death, where there is no love, no sudden beatings of the heart - nor anything but rest...

YO-SAN

I would not have that sleep... Let us put off that solemn rest on Shaka's bosom by being not too perfect.

(Setsu in horror shrinks back, frightened)

SETSU

Ahhh!

YO-SAN

(Changing)

Ah take me in your arms in this small sweet life!

(She creeps upon him)

I give you all my souls...

SETSU

(Horrified)

Aie!

(Aside)

She has given away her souls! She will turn into a fox-woman!

(Taking hold of Yo-san's kimono, pulling her away)

Aie!

YO-SAN

(Pulling back her kimono)

Setsu! Such manners!

KARA

(Has taken his arm out of sling and putting it around her)

YO-SAN

(Noticing his arm out of sling)

Aie, your arm!

KARA

It is healed!

(Raising it)

I can swing my swords again!

YO-SAN

(Putting it back in sling)

Ah, no, it is not well...

(As he illustrates - Prtulantly - farming herself, moving her head from side to side)

You want to go!

KARA

Honorably, I must soon.

YO-SAN

~~Honorably~~ leave me?

KARA

I must - unwillingly.

YO-SAN

Caring not if we never meet?

KARA

Ah yes, yes, but that is for the Gods!

YO-SAN

Aie! This is the end of love whose other name is "good by"! ... You have forgotten that my throat is a white snow drift of poppies - you said so that evening we watched the moon smile when we first tried those ki-esses... there is nothing to remember... go!...

KARA

Would you keep me from my duty? my sworn purpose?

YO-SAN

(Simply)

Yes, my dear Lord and master. Yes, if all the world must die for it - I would keep you; yes.

KARA

Yet I must go! I am a Samurai! - To him, there is but one word - honor!

(A slight pause)

YO-SAN

(Sighs - then suddenly looks up)

May Inu secretly take you a message?

(He nods - she speaks quickly - eagerly)

Every day?

(A pause - pleadingly, questioningly)

Augustness - every day?

KARA

Let him leave them at the place he left the message for my men - one of us will take them in passing.

YO-SAN

But I wish him to see you where you are - I wish him to speak with you - to touch you. I want to know that you are well and safe - and --

(sighs)

that you still love me...

KARA

(Troubled)

- Put the lives of my ten in his hands?

YO-SAN

(Hurt, growing very quiet)

Oh... you do not trust us !

(A pause)

- Have we betrayed you here?

KARA

Inu, the inkstone. ..

(Inu gets brush, inkstone, and paper ~~which are near.~~ Kara, using ~~her~~ hand ~~draws brush over inkstone and~~ writes on the parchment. Music commences - to mark the lines, impressive)

" In the heart of the red bamboo forest - passing the ~~ch~~ Daimyo tombs - down the long rock steps to the old deserted shrine of Kwannon... "

(He pauses, speaks)

Here my ten gather at the dusk hour to pray....

(Writes again)

Let him go always facing the cleft in the Moji Mountain - there is no path....

(Handing her the paper)

He must not come often, the way through the marshes - is sometimes death!

YO-SAN

(Giving paper back)

No! ,take it back!

(Music gradually dies away)

I do not think of you there in that strange awful place. August Kara, I cannot...

(Then with eagerness, trying to hold him captive, reopening book)

Sublimely let us put aside these perils - for now. Considerately hand your honorable eyes on the red book...

(Opening book in front of him)

KARA

(Seeing Inu with his swords)

Inu!

(Holds out his hands for them - Inu gives them to him. Unseen by Kara, Yo-san ~~shakes her fan threateningly at~~ Inu who goes to the shoji, again assuming the attitude of a sentinel)

Setsu, what day is this?

YO-SAN

Aie... now... again he commences. Did I not tell you yesterday?

KARA: stands up RC

(Rising)
O gentle Yo-san, behind your shoji, I too, am fed on honied lies.
(Yo-san sits immovable, Setsu looking at her)
I believe that I lay here still, lost in fever - far longer than you say... Banza! - Comrades ! What do you think of me?
(He takes the handkerchief sling from about his neck - and drops it - then goes up with his swords - his head bowed, he stands lost in thought - his back to the audience. Inu has passed to the outside - always on the watch. Yo-san still on her mat, keeps her eyes fastened on Kara, apprehensively)

Setsu enters up R. after Kara's sword is drawn

SETSU
(Aside to Yo-san) (Aside) O Stop MA.
Another arrow came for him at daybreak! Again that name was on it!
(Handing Yo-san a bit of parchment out of her sleeve)

YO-SAN
(Reading name) Vibe-
- Banza! ~~Another answer to his message~~ that name comes singing through the air to call him back... Banza! I hate it !

KARA
(Who has placed his swords back of screen - comes down with determination)
Yo-san!

YO-SAN
(Starts guiltily, hiding the paper behind her)
Yes, Lord!
(Rises)
(Setsu steps back by the screen)

KARA L. C
All day I have had it in my heart - I go. Honor has a voice that rings like a bugle in the night...

YO-SAN up stage RC
(Kneeling quickly)
A little longer,
(Kowtows)
Lord of my heart... my soul... my souls....

KARA
... Answer... how long since the night I was brought in behind these shoji?

YO-SAN

(Monotonously)

A little longer, Lord of my heart!

(Meekly folding her hands - blinking)

... say but two days.

KARA

(As though to say "nonsense")

Oh!

YO-SAN

(Quickly)

Four days... then...

KARA

Setsu!

(She does not come out from behind screen)

Setsu!

(Setsu comes down timidly)

How long?

SETSU

August Prince, I think today is Friday.

YO-SAN

You think too rapidly... it is earlier - Monday.

KARA

(Looks from one to the other - Setsu hides behind screen)

(Savagely)

Yo-san, answer!

YO-SAN

(Frightened)

It is set out on the tablet of time, My Lord and master.

KARA

(Demanding it)

The tablet!

(Yo-san claps her hands and Setsu, who has been peeking from around screen, only her head showing, comes forward with the tablet)

(Angrily)

Ah!

(Starts to take it)

YO-SAN

(Still on her knees, throws herself between him and Setsu, gives a long wail)

Aié! Ai!

YO-SAN

(Monotonously)

A little longer, Lord of my heart!

(Heavily folding her hands - blinking)

... say but two days.

KARA

(As though to say "nonsense")

Oh!

YO-SAN

(Quietly)

Four days... then...

KARA

Satan!

(She does not come out from behind screen)

Satan!

(Satan comes down thinly)

How long?

SATAN

August Prince, today is Friday.

Arrow ready off L 3.E.

YO-SAN

You think too rapidly... it is earlier - Monday.

KARA

(Looks from one to the other - Satan hides behind screen)

(Sharply)

Yo-san, answer!

YO-SAN

(Brightness :)

It is set out on the tablet of time, My Lord and master.

KARA

(Searching it)

The tablet!

(Yo-san slips her hands and Satan, who has been peeking from around screen, only her head showing, comes forward with the tablet) *Arrow 1 [illegible] from Lower R.*

(Imperil :)

Ah!

(Starts to take it)

YO-SAN

(Still on her knees, throws herself between Kara and Satan, gives a long wail)

Aah! Ah!

(Kara pauses, Inu outside turns and looks in)
He takes such beautiful moments as we have had... and calls them days - hours... Aie! They will look longer than they were.

KARA
(Taking the tablet from Setsu - counting)
Forty days! Shaka!

YO-SAN
Ah no, beloved, it is still the night you came !

KARA
Forty days!... And my men....
(Pauses, then calls - savagely, the warrior aroused)
Inu!
(Inu steps into the room from balcony, receiving a quick glance from Yo-san who stands with her hands clasped meekly)
Are you sure you took my message to the Daimyo tombs?
(Inu nods "yes" and his manner shows that he is truthful)
You hid it where I told you?
(Inu bows)
They know I live. They know I am here... What do they think delays me?
(Staring straight ahead, the savage showing more and more)
- Gods, what a leader! Forty days - no signal from them in all that time - my men are gone, trapped, dead - Zakkuri has taken them.
(Passes his hands over his face)
Yo-san, at the turning of the fever, I thought I heard our signal?... you said it was a dream, was it? Was it?

YO-SAN
(Stolidly)
What was that signal?

KARA
The cry of the chida bird - heard only on nights of great moons, sad and mournful.
(Setsu has started and comes to Yo-san)

YO-SAN
(Pulling Setsu's dress to be silent)
It was a dream...

KARA
There has been no arrow such as we send to those in hiding?

YO-SAN

(Who has hidden parchment from arrow in her sleeve)

... No...

(Setsu, at this lie retreats quietly with eyes downcast. Yo-san motions to Inu to go - he goes out on the balcony. She motions to Setsu who closes the shoji noiselessly - remaining outside. Yo-san approaches Kara tenderly)

Your men are dead... you too, are dead... I will be dead also!..The miserable world has forgotten us... let us forget the -

(An arrow is shot through the paper of the shoji and penetrates the wall - it has a bit of parchment fastened to it - Yo-san hastily takes it from wall and puts it behind her)

(Setsu looks in)

KARA

(As it comes in)

Hai!

(Then holding out his hand to Yo-san)

Yo-san!... Yo-san!

(She hands it to him - he pulls off the parchment and reads - Setsu and Yo-san look at each other in fear - they know their deception is discovered - Setsu disappears, Yo-san drops to the floor)

(Kara's face is drawn with terrible rage)

It was not a dream then - those signals! My men crept desperately to the very shadow of this guarded Yashaki !

(Holding out parchment on arrow)

This is the fourth arrow they have sent to call me back! And you said there was no signal!

YO-SAN

(Sitting up on her knees, her hands dropping in front of her)

I did it to undutifully keep you a little longer...

(Smiling at him)

KARA

(Enraged, loudly)

Shaka!

(Yo-san drops down, bowing, her hand resting on the floor, on all fours, abjectly acknowledging her wrong doing)

(Kara stares at parchment)

They know I am held by a woman, yet they do not reproach me... nothing but - "We wait - we trust" - and you kept the arrows!

(Yo-san, who has once more risen to her knees, now goes down on her hands again, abjectly kowtowing)

(Ignoring her)

I have lain here at a woman's feet as men lie at the feet of courtesans - Me! My name is something to whisper in the dark -

(Looking straight ahead, giving no heed to her)

Bansa!... the same sword has wounded us both... what do you think of me?... Nagoya, you who bathed my wounds and left your own in pain - what do you think of me... and you little Sano, carrying the samisen on your back as we fight, singing songs

of war and songs -

(Halting, then brokenly)

- of honor - that never let us forget we are Gentlemen of Japan! Gods! Gods! Gods! What do you all think of me, leaderless ones! While you face death, I linger behind a woman's shoji! Inu! Help me! - I go!

(Inu, with a look of satisfaction that Kara is going, exits R.)

YO-SAN

(Clinging to his robe - grovelling)

No, I fear the danger for you - I am afraid of the swords - the savage faces - the fighting - do not go -

KARA

I must!

YO-SAN

No --

KARA

(Taking his robe from her)

I go now!

YO-SAN

(Quickly)

Aie - ai -

(Almost breathless, rising in front of him)

Lord - one minute - wait! I ask only till tomorrow.

KARA

(Doubting her)

Ai!

YO-SAN

... There are twenty days remaining before my Father comes back to his Yashiki... before that time, I had secretly hoped - one night when all the stars were hid by clouds, we would go out - we too... to some far land... I see now that is not for miserable me - Augustly wait till tomorrow and I will be hap- - happy to see you go without one little word... and should you want to see my un-unimportant face again... I will go to you to that strange awful meeting place --

(Takes from him the parchment of the place of meeting, which, since she returned it to him, has been visible slipped in the front of his robe) (Same music as before now begins)

of many dangers... in the paper... then when my Father comes I will be outcast, too ...

Tonda-Tanje Ready off L.3.E

Chidori " " "

Chidori's Maid

4 Kago Men

4 Attendants

(Slips parchment in neck of her Kimono)
They will put a tablet for me at that shrine -
(Goes to little shrine in alcove)
beside - beside my Mother's... for one who is dead...
(She takes her Mother's ihai from shrine - looks at it)
There will be no dear death name for me like hers -
(Reads)
"~~Celestial Kist Lady~~...."
(Bowing to it)
O Mother! Spirit of love which loved me. Do you see me now who knew you but an hour? And if ~~it is not right~~ - ~~this which I do~~ - this love with which I love this man, send me a sign, that I may obey - No! I could not... it is too late...
(She sinks down on the mat, prostrate)
~~Pardon my manners, they are for this morning only~~... say - wait till tomorrow, Lord, ~~at the hour of the mouse~~...
(Cries)

KARA

(Raising her)
My poor Yo-san - such as my life is - here - in spite of its shame, keep it till tomorrow.

YO-SAN

(Who has replaced her Mother's Ihai, bowing to it - coming down, wiping off tears)
Ah... you... you were almost gone!... Say so! Hai! Hai!
(Half laughing, half sighing in relief - lights his pipe)
~~I am a happy carp in my lotus pond... I am a pleasant field of iris.~~
(Puffs pipe, handing it to him)
Hai! Hai! I will sing... I will make you beautifully happy till tomorrow... A little song from a large foreign village called "United States."
(Strikes chord on Koto)
It is in the red book.
(Sings gaily)
"There are fleet loves and sweet loves
And love of all seasons, and loves without reasons -
And great love -
(Looks at Kara, who is looking straight before him, smoking - nudging him)
-- like mine!"
(He never feels it - never sees her. She continues, watching him)
"When the heart aches, the heart breaks,
That vows can be slighted - when love has been plighted -
Red roses will never make wine."
(The orchestra takes up the refrain. She looks at him, then making up her mind that his heart is not here, goes up with patient sadness, gets his swords, coming down, gives them to him)
Say tonight! Lord!
(Kara, seizing them, overjoyed, exit R. Yo-san stands following him with her eyes)

[illegible]

They will put a tablet for me at that corner.

(Goes to little spring in alcove.)

beside - [illegible] ... for one who is [illegible]...

[illegible]

(Pause)

"[illegible] ..."

(Turns to [illegible])

[illegible] Do you see me now

[illegible] I [illegible] sign,

that - may be - No! I [illegible] too late...

(She sinks [illegible])

[illegible] wait

[illegible]

[illegible]

(Pause)

[illegible] - in [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] - coming

[illegible]

(Pause)

[illegible]

(Pause)

[illegible]

(Pause)

[illegible]

Well! [illegible] I'll always [illegible] you [illegible] large

hill [illegible] a little [illegible] village

called "United States."

(Strikes chord on Koto)

It is in the red book.

(Sings softly)

"There are false loves and true loves

And love of all reason,

And [illegible] without reason -

[illegible]

-- like mine!"

[illegible]

(Pause)

"When the [illegible] ends, the heart breaks,

That song could alighted - when love has been plighted -

Red roses will never make wine."

(Pause, looking below in the [illegible]. She looks at him,

[illegible] in her right hand [illegible] not here, [illegible]

[illegible] with words, [illegible]

[illegible] (Pause)

Say [illegible]! [illegible]!

([illegible] overjoyed, exits. Yo-san stands

[illegible]

SETSU

(Darting in through shoji, apprehensively)
Tonda Tanji! He has the Yashaki full of men.
(They look at each other in consternation)

TONDA T.'S VOICE

(Outside)
Honorable greetings!
(He tosses lotus flowers through the partly opened shoji)

SETSU

He dares to throw lotuses into your very room.

TONDA T.

What can so occupy the gracious moon flower that her shoji are always closed?
(Yo-san holds up a finger to Setsu as though to say "he knows")
(Long drawn out)
Pray-er?

"Tonda-Tanje" YO-SAN (robbing through the words)

(Taking Setsu's place at one side of the half closed shoji, speaking in the same polite drawl)
Oh yes!

TONDA T.

You have not forgotten your promise -
(Throwing more flowers which fall at her feet)
When I kill Kara you will marry me?

YO-SAN "Kill Kara" (aside)

Have you captured him?

TONDA T.

(Sweetly)
Everything is won by waiting!

YO-SAN

Oh yes. (aside)

TONDA T.

(In a soft, insinuating voice)
I see another arrow passed through your shoji - there where it is torn!
(Setsu points to place - they look aghast)
You do not answer. Are you still praying?

Change to the Ruinous State.

7th Scene –

The Ruinous

Parliament

Oh God! Restore

(Restore the Ruinous

State to the

Setting)

YO-SAN

I am still praying.

(38) M on stage.

SETSU

He has seen the arrows - he is spying.

TONDA T.

(Sings to instrument he carries)

"In the spring a maiden wonders - "

(Cries of Kago men off)

(Speaks)

My venerable August Aunt, Chidori, approaches.

(Continues singing)

"Why she has not nest and wings."

Kago MEN — off L - distant - "Aie" "Aie", "Aie"

(39) M on stage.

SETSU

(During this)

Chidori with the needle-eyes.

Sakkuri

YO-SAN

Business: Yo-San picks up arrow Kara has thrown down throws it back of Screen

He has sent her. Sh! Open the shoji!

(Yo-san, as though to warn Kara - exit into room R.U - and presently re-appears, darting behind the screen into alcove. Setsu putting screen in front of room R. opens the shoji wide. The view discloses the verandah beyond the shoji and a trellised balcony thick with moon flowers. We see through this, a lotus-pond in blossom, and glimmering water... Beyond this is a mountain with a shrine - or a tea-house.

(Leaning on railing, Tonda T. is standing outside balcony singing)

Setsu has moved a small screen surrounding place where Yo-san will sit (where she will not be seen at all by Kara and who can see well into rest of room.) Inu has re-entered and stands between shoji and room R. as though on guard.

All this during preceding business.

Cries of Kago men have continued off, coming nearer. Just as screen is quickly placed, a runner comes on crying "Way for the beautiful old one Chidori", and Chidori arrives, carried across balcony in an old-style Kago, her parasol up. She is a white-headed garrulous woman with a drawn face, quick peering eyes, and an expressionless smile which belies her every word. She is surrounded by a retinue of Kago men. While two hold her up, two kneel to take off her sandals. Her maid is old and rather fat. All kowtow to her. Yo-san comes out from recess in a dress of state - kowtows to floor)

CHIDORI

Kimichi wa! Flower of an august root!

(Kowtows, taking the two Kago men down with her)

The August gods guard you!

(All kowtow again)

O M Stop.

Teach you duty to their favorites - the old!

Chidori "Ae! Keep that gnat off me
(Maid goes to catch gnat)
Nay Kill it not, ah may te your
brothers soul.

Maid Bowtince to floor (Rubbing hands in
(prayer
"Membut Se, Membut Se"

YO-SAN

I break my bones on you! Beautiful old one!

CHIDORI

I give you leave... Let it be double bowing! (Kowtows) (As the men remove her sandals) / and she sits down, Setsu places screen about Yo-San.

So it has come to this in these Meijii days - that the old - (All kowtow) must seek out the young! The sea goes back to the spring!

YO-SAN

I am miserably sorry, august ancient one. (Kowtows)

CHIDORI

(Coming in, waddling, escorted by the Kago men)

One sorrow effaces the sin of three years! So commands Buddha! (Puts her hands on shoulders of the two Kago men and goes down with them, sitting on mat Setsu has brought forward for her. Kago men back out, kowtowing. As Chidori sits, Yo-san sits, Setsu takes her place, sitting just outside the shoji line. The Kago men squat out on balcony impassively, paying no attention to conversation nor looking about. The picture of sitting, save for Kago men, is instantaneous. Chidori continues talking all through this)

Moreover, Jamato-faced Princess, vexation feeds upon our fat and leaves us wrinkles... I am entirely placid... Besides - you cannot help what you are... The gods made you so! But remember even a devil is pretty at eighteen. (Mat bus) ¢ (Pointing with her closed parasol)

I suppose the imaginative Tonda Tanji thinks you a choice piece of work. Banja wa yume! All things are dreams - even beauty! (Putting on a pair of large tortoise-rimmed glasses, she inspects Yo-san, who looks politely down)

(49) H/Stage

TONDA T.

(Beginning to sing, strumming on instrument)

"In the spring, a maiden - "

CHIDORI

- Pst!... Would you sing uninvited in the presence of your unmatched Aunt! Oh! These Meijii days! (Fans herself, wagging her head from side to side)

TONDA T.

(Kowtowing)

I listen to the advice of the most august aged one this side of the immaculate last heaven!

CHIDORI

Well, I am not a thousand yet! I still have my charms for the wise-eyed!

(All kowtow)

The flame may be out, but the wick remains.

YO-SAN

(Wearily and dutifully, with an exhausted smile)

Beautiful Aunt!

CHIDORI

(Appeased, smiling blandly, her rising inflection very pronounced, asking questions fast, one after the other)

Is your honorable health good?

YO-SAN

Oh yes.

CHIDORI

Do you hear from your Honorable absent Father, that his August health is good?

YO-SAN

Oh yes.

CHIDORI

Does he travel by the Barbarian iron road called railway?

YO-SAN

Yes.

(Kowtows)

CHIDORI

Does he come back soon?

YO-SAN

Twenty days - when we heard last.

CHIDORI

Did he tell you by the barbarions tel-e-grap?

YO-SAN

Yes.

(Kowtows)

Cries and shouts. Ready off!

CHIDORI

(Fans for a moment, then renews the attack of questions)

Is your maid's health usually good, the excellent idler?

YO-SAN

Yes.

CHIDORI

Are all your servant's health ugually good?

YO-SAN

I have not been informed otherwise.

CHIDORI

Are all their relations health usually good? Do they all sleep well?

YO-SAN

I honorably hope so!

CHIDORI

(Approvingly)

What do you think of my nephew? Is he very accomplished concerning the things which please women?

(As Yo-san does not answer)

Aie?

(Yo-san shrugs her shoulder coyly)

He will surprise you one day --

(Peering at Yo-san from the corners of her eyes, which narrow)

He is capable of anything...

(flirting her fan)

O as men go! They were not what they were... in these ~~legal~~ Tempo. days! Why! It is nothing for a man to own eighty women besides his wife! Eighty!

(Fanning herself)

I would like to see the man who could keep me in his Yashaki with eighty other women! ~~In my beautiful youth, I was all or nothing. Oh, they were thick about me then, like monkeys snatching at the moon on the water. . But if a man so much as looked at me - I told my husband, and off went his head! Banno Kuno! That is what he got!~~ (41) M Stage

(Fans indignantly, then suddenly pauses)

TONDA T.

(Strumming and singing as before)

"In the springtime oft it happens
Men to maidens speak dear things - "

Prince of Wales ready I. 3.4.

CHIDORI

(Who has opened her mouth to speak several times - claps her hands to stop him)

Your venerable Aunt is trying to speak!

(Tonda T. subsides)

(to Yo-san)

Young maiden, I present you with this decorous advice: a woman's duty is to get married early and raise a large family so she may be many times an ancestor.

(Fans virtuously - stops - ~~[illegible] with her fan - [illegible]~~)

~~Are these not two guest cushions at your table?~~

~~YO-SAN~~

~~(Confused)~~

~~Two?~~

~~(Chidori puts up two fingers behind her fan to indicate to Tonda Tamp that she has discovered, moves her lips, saying "two")~~

~~Setsu uses that.~~

~~(Pointing to 2nd cushion)~~

~~CHIDORI~~

~~Who [illegible]?~~

~~([illegible]s. At that moment the distant sound of dead-head drums heard and a crier passes unseen across the Yashaki as though escorted by Zakkuri's guard... he half sings, half chants in a high voice)~~

CRIER

(Distinctly but faintly)

"Decree! Decree! of the Illustrious Zakkuri! A price on the head of the outlaw Kara - Proclaimed! In the name of the heaven- born!"

(All bow - voice dies away)

(Chidori has watched Yo-san, who is smiling calmly)

YO-SAN

(After a slight pause - impassively)

How beautiful is that honorable weather... will you smoke?

CHIDORI

(Smiling)

I will smoke)

(They bow, Setsu gets the smoking materials. Chidori rises on her knees and peers over the table. Unseen by Yo-san she picks up a cup - and holds it up so Tonda T. can see it, and gestures with two fingers "two" - Tonda ad lib until Yo-san presents the pipe and light)

(Caught with the cup in her hand, smiling)

What a sublime cup!

(Setsu speedily removes the table)

(Chidori has been from time to time pushing away a fly

(that annoys her - now turning angrily on her maid, who has gone to sleep)

Keep that gnat off me! Yet kill it not! It may be your brother's soul.

(Prays)

Nembut su!

(The maid fans her)

(Yo-san has lighted Chidori's pipe and presents it to her)

(About to put it to her lips - halts - pointing with pipe)

What a pretty - er --

(Reaching out, still sitting - she lifts Kara's tied bandage with arm sling)

YO-SAN

Ha - handkerchief!

CHIDORI

Yes?

(Sweetly)

It looks like a bandage.

(as Yo-san reaches for it to get it back)

Permit me to accept it! ~~Thanks~~! arigato

(Takes a puff) Yosan bows head off where Kara is in

(She tucks it in her sleeve) fear. Setsu too, head off

(Smiling)

Ha - Touching that outlaw edict just proclaimed outside - a miracle that he should go up like smoke H....

(Illustrates)

Do you know this proverb: "Todai moto Kurashi" - "The darkest place is just beneath the candle stick"?

(Smokes)

Some say he is hidden here yet... What do you say?

YO-SAN

(Stolidly)

Impossible... He would have to come out for food and water -

CHIDORI

O-doi, the Nokado's daughter, hid a man in her room - when they took him... of course she killed herself... what else could she do?

YO-SAN

(Simply)

Of course.

that answers her - now trembling anxiously on her mate, who
has come to a stop.)
Keep that gun off me! Yes! Kill it not! It may be your broth-
er's son!
(Pause)
Doubt so!
(The maid runs her)
(Lu-ara has lighted Chidorri's pipe and presents it to
him)
(Chidorri takes it with a
pipe)
What a frolic - or --
(Maid is not, still shaking - she hits Lu-ara's tied
wrists with her fan)

LU-ARA

Ha - hahahoroshi!

CHIDORI

Yes?
(Dreadfully)
It looks like a hankage.
(As Yo-Gan reaches for it to put it back)
Permit me to accept it! Thank-
(Puts a [illegible])
(It turns it in her sleeve)
(Lifting)
- Wishing that certain evil just proclaimed outside -
miracle that he should go up like smoke ....
(Illustrates)
Do you know this proverb: "Dokai moto kurasaki" - "The darkest
place is just beneath the candle stick"?
(Smiling)
Some day he is hidden here yet... What do you say?

YO-GAN

(Sighing)
Impossible... He would have to come out for food and water -

CHIDORI

O-dai, the Mikado's daughter, hid a man in her room - when
they [illegible] him... of course she killed herself... what else
could she do?

YO-GAN

(Simply)
Of course.

CHIDORI

By that reprehensible act, she lost her people and her death name. Moreover, she made herself unknown in all the Heavens! And she was too evil for any of our hells! Aa! Kowakatta! Her body was given to the foxes. The house was deserted. Through the rotting shoji, one could see the gnawing rats pull down the empty walls.

YO-SAN

(Who has sat immovable, answers placidly smiling)

So?

CHIDORI

(Tapping inverted pipe against tray, laying it down) hands it to Maid.
(Politely)
He! I transgress by too augustly long a visit! (43) Mf stage
(Calls)
Ito! Innosuke! Sleeping devils! What are you doing?
(The Kago men come forward. After kowtowing on each side, the men put on her shoes)
(Kowtowing, taking men down) Setsu takes screen from R.C. to R.U, Inu takes it off.
I bid you excellent good day!
(Yo-san bows)
The Gods smile on you! Be sure that your soul can always smile back at them....
(As the Kago men back her up towards balcony)
Sayonara! Yeoshi!
(She casts a swift glance at Tonda T. and says markedly)
Yes...
(Then gets into Kago. She is carried off, exclaiming "Mitsu! Mitsu!" All are kowtowing - voices of Kago men calling "Hai" in chant-fashion and die away in the distance. Yo-san, completely changed since the story of O-dei, now points to the shoji. Setsu and Inu run up to close them. A reddish gold light falls through the shoji. The three stand, looking at each other - they know that Kara's presence is no longer doubted)

KARA

(Wearing his mail and his helmet - and carrying his two swords - re-appears)

Yo-San.... I go... now...

TONDA T.

(Stepping into space left between shoji, barring Setsu and Inu from closing them tight - politely, not looking into room)

Princess, my Uncle has given me an hundred of his new strange musket men... they are near... but I do not wish to kill him... I wish to take him alive...

GUIDOCI

By that representative act, she lost her people and her death name. Thereafter, she was hereafter unknown in all the Tavern! And she was too evil for any of our halls! Ah! Nowaka-tta! Her body was given to the foxes. The house was deserted. Through the rotting shell, one could see the gaping hole pull down the empty walls.

Crier and shouts ready off L.3.E

SAM

(Who has an idea, Gidget, whatever placidly smiling)

So?

Heads it to Ward

GUIDOCI

(Turning inverted pile against tray, laying it down)

(Pallidly)

Yes! I was pursue by too angrily long spirit!

(Pile)

Yes! Innocuous! Fleering devilin! What are you doing?

(The men come forward. After looking on each side, the men put on their shoes)

(Pulling, taking off down)

I big you emphatic good day!

(Men bows)

The Good Will Co... I be sure that your and one always smile back at them...

(As the men pick her up towards alcove)

Yes...

(She sets a quiet glance at Tarda T. and says meaningly)

(The men pile out. She is carried off, exclaiming [illegible]! [illegible] - voices of Mego man calling [illegible] in direction and die away in the distance. Re-[illegible], [illegible] lately changed since the story of [illegible], now pointing to the shoji. Satan and Inu run up to close them. A reddish gold light falls through the shoji. [illegible] stand, looking at each other - they [illegible] that's [illegible] is no longer doubted)

Sates fade, sounds from RU, Gen. Gibson

RG to RU, Gen. Gibson

"A"

(Pushing his way and his helmet - and carrying his two swords - re-appears)

Ko-ma... I ... ...

"B"

(Stepping into space left between shoji, burning Satan and Inu from closing [illegible] - [illegible], not looking [illegible])

Please [illegible] Mego has given me an hundred of his new strange market men... they are near... but I do not wish to kill him... I wish to take him alive...

YO-SAN

(Never moving, with a sort of gutteral exclamation)

Ahhh!

TONDA T.

That you may know when I have captured him, I will toss his sleeve against your shoji!

(Disappears - shoji are closed)

YO-SAN

(As before)

Ahhh!

KARA

(Holding out his arms to her)

Sayonara?

YO-SAN

You heard?

KARA

(Taking her in his arms)

If I am taken, it must not be here! No more shame to you!

YO-SAN

Six minutes - one hour - Oh Gods! - One moment!

KARA

Inu shall show me the passage to the Jizo shrine...

(Smoothing her hair back - looking in her face)

May Buddha guard you until I see your face again, and if we never --

(Yo-san helplessly wipes the tears away with the sleeve of her kimono, giving a little pathetic cry, a half moan)

YO-SAN

No - no - we will meet...

(The Prince of Tosan appears at door L. He looks at them - his face is rigid, he breathes angrily - Instinctively they turn and look at him - no one moves)

PRINCE OF TOSAN

(Quietly) takes off hat and throws it down right C.

You have been here in my daughter's sanctuary... you have been here!

(A pause)

Permit me...

(He takes a sword from Kara, and reversing it, offers it

naked to him - Kara, who takes it, flinging down the sheath. The Prince of T. takes the other sword, the long one, flings away the scabbard, pulls up his sleeve, grins it. Then, to Yo-san)

Bare your neck!

(44) Mt Stage.

(Yo-san does so - bows mechanically)
(to Kara)

There was a debt between us -
(Quaint music off)
which now is cancelled... There was a bond which now I break...
I am disgraced, destroyed... My daughter and I follow you...
Nothing else is possible... We wait!

KARA

(Who has tucked the sleeves of his kimono out of the way, and mechanically felt the edge of his sword, steps in front of Yo-san)

She is not to die...

PRINCE OF T.

Do you say you have not made a wanton of my daughter?

KARA

Gods! No!

PRINCE OF T.

He!
(He turns savagely upon Yo-san)
You!

YO-SAN

(Shaking her head without understanding)
I never heard - that - word - before - my Father.
(Kowtows)

PRINCE OF T.

(Dragging her to the shrine)
Say "no" upon your Mother's Kaymio
(All bow)
She is looking into your soul here - here --
(Forces her to her knees in front of shrine)
Dare to swear by this,
(Puts ihai in front of her)
that you are pure!

YO-SAN

Oh, reverend Father! Oh dear dead Mother! ... I am pure.

Kowtowing takes Kaymono

PRINCE OF T.

Yebisu!

(Strikes her down. She holding the kaymio in her arms)
(He raises his sword over her)

KARA

He!

(He cuts the sword out of the Prince's hand - they look at each other in rage)

Outrager of hospitality that I am, O Prince, I fight for honor, I do not slay it! I have accepted the refuge of a coward - I should have gone, but I loved her... I have broken the compact of shelter! Yes - but Gods, she kneels before you pure as the Mother whose tablet she holds! Mighty Prince of Tosan, we do not fight today - there is no cause.

PRINCE OF T.

(Who has picked up sword)

I find you in her sanctuary. It is enough! Shaka! Strike to kill - strike to kill - strike, I say --

(He has attacked Kara, who parries his mad thrusts, refusing to fight)

KARA

I will not fight. Strike!

(Stands undefended before the Prince)

(As the sound of drums once more comes up outside)

VOICE OF CRIER

(Again heard outside, much nearer than the first time)

"Decree of the Illustrious Zakkuri! A price on the head of the outlaw Kara! Proclaimed! Proclaimed! In the name of--

(The Prince of T. goes to the shoji and throws them open the red-gold sunlight comes in - raises his arm commandingly and calls off)

Shaka!

PRINCE OF T.

Aie!

(The voice of the crier dies away - the drum suddenly ceases - not a sound heard. The Prince of T., turning to Kara, pointing)

Go!

(Hands him his sword)

YO-SAN

Father! It is death!

PRINCE

(Handing Kara his sword)

Go!

(to Yo-san)

And you eat no more beneath my roof... nor sleep... Outcast!

(The Prince passes out - her melody commences)

Ye! Se! Ui is dead outside

KARA

If I live, Yo-san, come to me, the third day... I will wait for you at the shrine of Kwamon. Sayonara!

(He steps quietly out of her arms - leaving them outstretched - empty)

YO-SAN

(Almost in a whisper)

Sayonara!

(Kara goes out, disappears)

(From the outside, Inu closes the shoji. The music stops, there is a dead silence. Yo-san is motionless, listening. There begins the sound off of a combat - of a man fighting against clubs and missiles with his sword - there are fierce gutteral exclamations and calls. Yo-san runs to shoji and with a thrust of her fist and arm tears it open - screams, sinks down, her back to audience, dishevelling her hair, tearing her kimono half off. The sounds off die away. There is a silence. Yo-san, wetting her finger, puts it through the shoji, peers out)

As Yo-San breaks shoji, shouts stops.

TONDA T.

(Calling outside)

Yo-san! Yo-san! He is taken! He!

(Yo-san rising, dashes shoji open)

(Tonda T. throwing in sleeve

Your promise?

YO-SAN

I throw it in your face!

(Turning, for the first time showing her terrible face and dishevelled hair - comes down, holding out sleeve)

Shaka! Shaka! Shaka!

(No music)

C U R T A I N .

Discovered.——

Sakkuri up C.
1st & 2nd Secretaries over L.
Ato behind War God R.
Koko & 3 other Spies up R C.
Goto outside C. Door, looking off R.
Two runners up L C.
One runner up L.

Ready 2nd Runner off L 3 E
Four Guards & Captain of R 3 E.
Kugo in cellar over L.

stic

ACT IV.

rs.

The old Sword Room - The Cabinet of the Minister of W re

Later the same day.

"Nothing for nothing is given here."

SCENE: A large room with walls and ceiling lacquered. It is dark and livid in aspect. The floor is black lacquer, where it is least used - it is matted where most used, but the mats must be laid conventionally. C. at back, is a large double door reached by a flight of four or five steps. It opens with hinges and has an ornamental bronze latch and hinges. Beyond this, is a splendid corridor of a tone differing from that of the large room, so as to be striking when the doors are open, and, in the further wall of this, is a window at the height of four feet, running horizontally. It is sashed and filled, shoji-like, with translucent decorated paper. It is practicable and slides, each half past the other in grooves, (shoji-like). Door up in recess R. C. slides, (as all other doors, save centre one.) Down L. is a private door to Zakkuri's apartments - Up L. door. Down R. - back of the war God, is a door. R. is a large platform raised about eight inches above the floor, on which are desks for Zakkuri and the two secretaries. Fronting the desk of Zakkuri, in the floor, is a huge trap door, opening with a ring. When it is open, it appears to be very thick, say four inches... R., is the large figure of Ojin-Tenno, the War God. Piled at the feet of the God, and about it, are a number of swords and some standards that have been captured from the Samurai - also bowls of rice and a few incense sticks, stuck in vases filled with sand. There is a tall old six-fold lacquer screen. The desks of Zakkuri and his secretaries contain ink stone, brushes and scrolls. There is also an hibachi and cushions for them all. Some of the old sword racks remain with swords in them.

(47) ~~A~~

There are a few bars of quaint, characteristic music for the rise of the curtain. Zakkuri is discovered at his desk, wearing a pair of huge spectacles... (either silver or tortoise.) A large lantern shines (from over his left shoulder) on his desk and papers. Four spies are sitting at back, in a horizontal line... One stands at back, by sliding door or

(47A) ~~A~~

panel-shoji, looking off R. Two runners sit up near sliding door L., with the characteristic handkerchieves around their heads. Ato is seated behind the War God, unseen by the others. The first secretary is kowtowing low before Zakkuri, holding out a scroll for his approval and signature. All letters and messages written in this act are on scrolls of paper)

Zakkuri is reading a scroll on his desk, ignoring the waiting secretary. He is the picture of serene satisfaction. Outside is heard the sounds of a whizzing rocket, which bursts - and through opened panel-shoji or window, the sparks are seen to fall. The second secretary is busily writing with brush and ink stone. The spies sit motionless - waiting.

(NOTE: Whenever entering and addressing Zakkuri, the spies are most obsequious & abject - almost crawling.)

1st SECRETARY

(Kowtows humbly with scroll)

ZAKKURI

(Looks up - and reads from scroll of the 1st Secretary who is still humbly kowtowing - Zakkuri does not touch the scroll himself)

"His petition is herewith denied, as he himself would deny it were himself the petitioner to himself."..

(Takes up his seal, stamps it in red - then adds his own signature - importantly - with a brush. Waves the secretary away. His attention is attracted by the bursting of a rocket. As he looks up)

Is it known among the people that I am sending up these rockets

(beaming)

to signalize the taking of Kara?

1st SPY

(at shoji-panel - kowtowing)

Yes, high Lord. ~~There are many looking at them.~~

O. Stop X

ZAKKURI

That is good!

(turning to 1st Secretary, who is rolling up the scroll)

Wrap it in gold paper and accomplish the mission with distinguished ceremony.

(The secretary wraps and hands scroll to one of the runners L.S., who receives it, kowtowing off through the sliding door)

(to another spy)

Ready Captain & 4 Market men.

To the Minister of Imperial Internal affairs. Observe who enters and leaves his palace.

(Exit spy)

(to runner who has previously entered, and is kneeling at his feet, waiting to be questioned)

Did you see the Prince of Tosan?

RUNNER

The Palace is closed - the Amado drawn. No one has seen his face since Kara was taken in his Yashaki.

ZAKKURI

So.... Do the people evince enthusiasm over my capture?

RUNNER

Yes, Lord - to our faces! Behind our backs, they have the effrontery to admire this outlaw!

(Zakkuri waves him away)

ZAKKURI

(to Secretaries)

They should have their heads off for an example...

(they gravely nod assent)

Have some of my new musket men walk about unconcernedly among them!

(The runner kowtows, and passes off R., 3rd F re-appearing with 4 musket men in charge of an officer - they exeunt L.C.)

(To the 2nd Spy)

Kojin! The Shin-Yoshiwara - the House of the Seven Silver Carp! Tell Madame Asani, to come with her Geisha... Ask her to be more delicately painted - her hair as smooth as Kyoto silk - not so much beni on her lips...

(A suggestion of a black look comes into his face)

Convey the impression that I am more difficult to please than yesterday. (47A. M - Guard with runner cross stage.)

(as Kojin starts, Zakkuri claps his hands once - Kojin stops instantly - Zakkuri tosses a coin)

Have a cup of Sake at the Red Maple tea-house - get the Geisha talk there.

(Kojin ~~starts~~ exit L.C. - During the above, the other secretary has presented a scroll, and after the business of sealing and so on is gone through with, it is given to a runner who kowtows off L.C. - Zakkuri opens small door in his platform, a ray of bluish-red light comes up - he does not raise his voice as he calls)

Kugo!

(As he waits, he takes up the scroll he first read - smiling - he begins it again - aloud)

"The Heaven-born Emperor of everlasting great Nippon observes with applauding eyes

(rolls his own in satisfaction)

that the swords of Kara are in the hands of Zakkuri." Show them to Ojin-Tenno, my sublime War God - (47 C. A)

To the Minister of Imperial Internal affairs. Observe who enters and leaves his palace.
(Exit [illegible])
(to runner who has previously entered, and is kneeling at his feet, waiting to be questioned)
Did you see the Prince of Tosan?

RUNNER
The Palace is closed - the Amado drawn. No one has seen his face since Haru was taken in his Kashaki.

ZAKKURI
So.... Do the people evince enthusiasm over my capture?

RUNNER
Yes, Lord - to our faces! Behind our backs, they have the effrontery to admire this outlaw!
(Zakkuri waves him away)

ZAKKURI
(to Secretaries)
They should have their heads off for an example...
(they gravely nod assent)
Have some of my new musket men walk about unconcernedly among them!
(The runner bows, and passes off R., re-enter [illegible] with a musket man in charge of an officer - the [illegible] I.C.)
(to the 2nd Spy)
Rojin! The Shin-Yoshiwara - the House of the Seven Silver Carp! Tell Madame Asami, to come with her Geisha... Ask her to be more delicately painted - her hair as smooth as Kyoto silk - not so much red on her lips...
(A suggestion of a [illegible] look comes into his face)
[illegible] yesterday.
Torida Fange ready off I.3.E.
(as [illegible] turns, [illegible] - [illegible] steps [illegible] - [illegible] a coin)
Have a cup of Sake at the Red Maple tea-house - get the Geisha talk there.
(Rojin [illegible] exit L.C. - During the above, the other secretary has [illegible] a scroll, and after the business of sealing and so on is gone through with, it is given to a runner [illegible] - [illegible] a small [illegible] in the platform, a [illegible] light comes up - he does not raise his voice as he calls)
Page!
(As he waits, he [illegible] the scroll to first read - smiling - he begins it again - aloud)
"The Heaven-born Emperor of everlasting great Nippon observes with unblinking eyes
([illegible] in satisfaction)
that the swords of Haru are in the hands of Zakkuri." Show

(kowtows - a few bars of very Japanese music P.P. accompanied by the rolling of a drum as the secretaries take the swords and lift them up to the God - all kowtowing three times)

Now, lay them at his feet with all the others.

(as though to himself)

The Emperor is satisfied with me for the first time in a month. It would be my life's triumph if I had all Kara's ten men!

(claps his hands - Spies kowtow)

I am feeding spiesx who have never seen the shadows of these priced outlaws.

(snaps it out)

Yebis!

(then changing with his sweetest smile)

Suddenly, one day, the spot on which you now sit, will be vacant.

(They do not kowtow, but sit immovable - panic-stricken. Secretary who held out first scroll, now holds out another for signature - bowing, but Zakkuri pays no attention)

(calling again through trap)

Kugo!

KUGO

(Kugo's voice below)

Illustrious Zakkuri called?

ZAKKURI

Did you convey to Kara, the xx assurance of my high esteem?

KUGO

Yes, Lord!

ZAKKURI

- And how miserably I regretted having him confined under my contemptible official roof?

KUGO

Yes, Lord.

ZAKKURI

- And intimate that I would grant him honorable respite, if his ten men gave me their swords?

KUGO

Yes, master.

ZAKKURI

What did he say?

(If impossible for Kugo to ascend in time, repeat this question)

KUGO

(Appearing from opening in floor leading from the torture room below - a light coming up, as he lifts it)

He laughed.

(Lowers trap door and crossing to R. disappears)

(Secretary, who has been waiting for scroll to be signed - now thinking that the interview is over, again approaches)

ZAKKURI

(Enraged, closing the opening in his platform, unconsciously looking towards secretary)

Devils! Birds of the air'. Yebisu!

(47) D M

1st SECRETARY

(Aghast, retreating)

Were your Excellency's words for me?

ZAKKURI

No!...

(Suddenly)

Did you hear them?

SECRETARY

(Retiring, with unsigned scroll)

I heard nothing!...

SHIBA

(Entering from door L.C. - kowtowing so low that he drops on his hands)

The Honorable Tonda-Tanji passes in the distance....

ZAKKURI

(Motioning to Secretary who retreated with scroll, and now signs it)

(calls)

Tcho!

(The 5th Spy takes the message abjectly, kowtowing out of door L.C.)

Does my nephew's manner convey the impression that he is about to parade Geisha street to proclaim his valor?

SHIBA

(crawling forward)

He is without doubt going gaily towards Geisha street.

ZAKKURI

(motioning to one of the runners)
Send him this way... let his feet not linger.
(Runner kowtows off abjectly)
(Zakkuri waves his hand at the two secretaries who kowtow off L.)
(dryly)
Has no one else passed?
(Filling his pipe)

SHIBA

The honorably persistent courtesan, Rosy Sky, Lord.

ZAKKURI

It is well she passed. If she undertakes to enter again, it would please me to think of her in a world far removed from this!
(grimly)
Say the middle heaven.
(lights pipe)
(Shiba kowtows and starts to crawl off down R.)
(to 6th Spy)
Tell Kugo!
(6th Spy exit)
Shiba!
(He does not raise his voice, but Shiba instantly turns)
I thought I heard, a little while ago, the noise of a retinue passing?
(with sudden savagery)
Is it possible that it was -
(halts - smokes - (significantly)
unobserved?

SHIBA

His Highness, the Minister of Internal affairs - passed precisely at the hour of the Dragon!

ZAKKURI

Ah-h!
(with sinister interest)
Did he look this way?
(Rapping pipe)

SHIBA

Yes, high Lord.

ZAKKURI

How?

SHIBA

With malice, Lord.

ZAKKURI

He wished me to see him going to the Emperor?

SHIBA

Their clamor, Lord, was to that end.

ZAKKURI

Did you convey the impression of my utter indifference?

SHIBA

Yes, Lord. I whistled and looked above them.

ZAKKURI

(smoking)

Did you question his clansmen as to his errand?

SHIBA

I questioned the maid of his chief Geisha before he rose this morning, Lord.

ZAKKURI

Ahh!

(With a cat-like smile)

SHIBA

He fears the Heaven-descended Emperor will be too pleased at your triumph. He goes to make light of it! He will say - that but for a woman, you would never have had the outlaw, Lord.

ZAKKURI

(Smiling)

Aié?

SHIBA

He will say that the other ten will be free as summer swallows - while you are War minister --

ZAKKURI

Aié? What else?

SHIBA

He will suggest -

(Faltering)

... Lord --

ZAKKURI

(Coaxingly)

Shiba!

SHIBA

A younger man in your place - he will say - Excellency.

ZAKKURI

(Suddenly)

Isuka!

(the last boy kowtows)

Light more colored fires.

(turning to Shiba)

Have my name shouted under the shoji of my enemy!

(Isuka - kowtowing - exit)

SHIBA

Yeroshi! August one.

(Kowtows off L.C.)

ZAKKURI

Ato!

(Ato comes forward from behind war-god, bowing)

Observe Shiba... he was once of my enemy's clan... Watcher of the watchers, keep wide eyes upon him...

(There is a sketch of song outside which stops suddenly as Tonda Tanji appears on the threshold. He is gaily dressed, dangling a flower by its long stem, - followed by two almost naked coolies - they have handkerchieves around their heads and wear loin cloths. Ato has passed off in direction Shiba took)

TONDA TANJI

(Breezily)

O-hayo! Distinguished Uncle!...

(Kowtows - Zakkuri is motionless)

... You desired my presence?

(Zakkuri, smoking, holds out his hand for the flower Tonda Tanji carries by its stem. Tonda Tanji hands it to him - he throws it into a corner - looks very hard over his glasses at Tonda Tanji's feet)

(Taking the hint)

Your pardon... my haste... most revered.

(Bows - holds out feet to his two kneeling coolies, who remove sandals - then go up outside of door and squat)

Jigoku!

(Fanning himself airily and wagging his hand from side to side)

Kara pays with his life to-day, while the world fawns upon my courage... proclaims me magnificent!

ZAKKURI

The world is a liar... I gave you an hundred men to capture him Parader of Geisha street!

Zakkari (rising)

Shaka: When a princess falls who has danced with the Gods, it is as though the Sun Goddess herself had fallen. She has been driven from her father's house, an out cast, Sh! The Minister of imperial internal affairs returns:

TONDA T.

(Pointedly, retaliating - but smiling)
I just met your spy Kojin drunk on white sake - he said he bore a foolish message to Madame Asani, who had replaced Rosy Sky.

ZAKKURI

Kojin is a petty liar. He is not so magnificent a liar as the world!

(both kowtow) The Princess Yo-San has thrown her promise in my face. What with Kara dead.

ZAKKURI

(Claps his hands - calls in an even tone)
Kugo!

(Kugo enters) "You will marry this soiled woman
Kojin has told that Geisha are coming here today - the War priest Zakkuri! - Punish him -

Tonda-Tanje

KUGO

Shall I punish him for a liar? Of course, exalted Uncle.

Zakkuri. #

ZAKKURI

No, for telling the truth... which is even more indiscreet.

(Kugo kowtows and exit)

(Turning on Tonda T.)
Has it not entered your bettle brain that your dishonored betrothal scroll, signed in my name, is not yet returned by the Prince of Tosan. Gods! Had she not thrown her promise in your face you would marry this outcast woman!

TONDA T.

(stolidly)
Oh yes... for a short season...

(still stolid, but rolling his eyes)
I have had longing thoughts of her since I was betrothed at three...

ZAKKURI

Shaka! Have you no sense of honor?

TONDA T.

Where women are concerned? Have you, Exalted Uncle?

ZAKKURI

Go to the Prince of Tosan, bring back the betrothal scroll - Sh! My enemy returns!

(Holds up his hand to command attention - off is heard the sound of military music, of the Minister of the Interior and his Suite, on their way back from the Em-

Ø Tonda Tanjiro has fascinated Kung

Shiba ready L 3E

Two specs + runners ready L 3E

(kneels)

(Emperor - a sort of fan-fare)

He has not -

(With a marked cat-like smile)

been received by the Emperor to laugh at my triumph...

(Claps hands - a spy instantly appears)

Rockets! More lights!

(Spy runs off - almost immediately the colored lights and rockets go up - the music growing a little louder, off. - A bluish-green light shines on Zakkuri's face as he steps nearer shoji-panel - speaking with a dry chuckle)

Hai! Now I laugh.... and none too soon. Hai! Ha! Had I failed to take Kara - I had certain subtle hints that I should go as others before me - quickly - silently...

(fan-fare heard)

and he knew -

(Pointing off)

Hai! Hai! Hai!

(A rocket goes up, sending down a shower of colofed sparks. The light changes to a reddish shade)

TONDA T.

(With grim humor)

August Uncle, I should have missed you!

ZAKKURI

Oh no - you would have died with me.

(Fainter fan-fare)

TONDA T.

(Terrified - his smile disappearing - retreating)

Has the Emperor said -

ZAKKURI

He never says - he strikes

(markedly)

- suddenly - when he is not obeyed... and the entire dutiful family....

(They kowtow)

TONDA T.

I will pray that the gods preserve you long.

ZAKKURI

Naturally!

(Both kowtow lower)

(Fan-fare comes to an exact finish)

(Shiba comes in, running)

SHIBA

Lord, there is triumph in your enemy's train!...

(kneels)

ZAKKURI

What?... Did he see the Emperor?

(All kowtow)

(Ato steps into the room and quickly resumes his old place)

SHIBA

~~No, most (high lord) the Imperial gates are closed... the Emper-~~
~~or -- guarded -~~

(All kowtow)

- shut in - all is consternation there - but Gods!

ZAKKURI

What - what is this?

SHIBA

The outlaws have sent an arrow within the Imperial Walls -

(All kowtow)

- they demand Yara - threatening the Emperor's sacred life if -

(Kowtows)

ZAKKURI

(Awed)

Shaka!

SHIBA

Therefore your enemy laughs and says you must bring forth the ten, whose shadows your spies have never seen - show their heads - quickly -

(Kneels - kowtows)

or -

TONDA TANJI

(Alarmed)

Yobia!

ZAKKURI

(With grim dignity, motioning Tonda Tanji to be silent)

Shiba, you have brought me so much news today - all bad - that I reward you... Tell Kugo - to have rice fed to you....

SHIBA

(Who has jumped to his feet in horror, now kneels abjectly)

Not that! Lord - once I lay dying of the eating of it -- I --

ZAKKURI

Let them lift your head, open your mouth, and drop it grain by grain... until --

SHIBA

Lord!

(Insolo)

RAMURI

What?... Did he see the Emperor?

(All kowtow)

(Ato at the door, the room and quickly resumes his old place)

SHIRA

No, sir! (Light - sad) The Imperial guards are coming... the Emperor - or - married -

(All kowtow)

- what is - all is equal in death there - but Gods!

RAMURI

What - what is this?

SHIRA

The outlaws have sent an arrow within the Imperial Palace -

(All kowtow)

- they demand Kato - threatening the Emperor's sacred life if -

(Outlawe)

Ready ——

Kardoff R 3E

Kugo " "

2 Torturers " "

Kato " L 3E

RAMURI

Shame!

(Aloud)

SHIRA

Therefore your exalty Lady and says you must - with the sun, these outlawe your noble face never seen - show their heads - quickly -

(Insolo - kowtows)

or -

TONDA TAKUI

(Alarmed)

Yebia!

RAMURI

(With grim dignity, motioning Tonda lengt to be silent)

Shiba, you have already, so much done today - all and - that I reward you... Tell Kugo - to have rice ful to you....

SHIRA

(Who has jumped to his feet in horror, now kneels abject-ly)

Not that! Lord - once I lay dying of the eating of it -- I --

RAMURI

Let them lift your head, open your mouth, and drop it grain by grain... until --

SHIRA

Lord!

(Rising and kowtowing humbly)
Kindly do not forget to stop them in time - Celestial Master -

ZANKURI

I am much occupied with my own more serious affairs good Shiba,... If I should forget, pardon me - Go!
(Shiba kowtows off to room R)

TONDA T.

Uncle - The Emperor will look to his War Minister to deliver his enemies - you who have done so much - Gods! If you should fail!

ZANKURI

That is the tragedy of success, one cannot afford to fail!
(Sits, fanning himself very quietly)
(Then suddenly clapping his hands - calling)
Tsho! Itsuka! Hai!
(Several of the spies run in falling prostrate)
Go to the Imperial place gates - gather news - quickly!
(Spies run off kowtowing - their arms outstretched)

TONDA T.

(Agitated)
Gods! Make this Kara tell where his men are...

ZANKURI

(Cynically)
He -
(Ato who has passed off now re-enters R.C. - behind him are seen the faces of spies, runners, and Taro - a tanned rough looking man - dusty and travel-stained)

ASO A runner

Excellency, a capture by Taro!

SPIES - RUNNERS

A capture!
A capture!
Yes, Lord!

Together

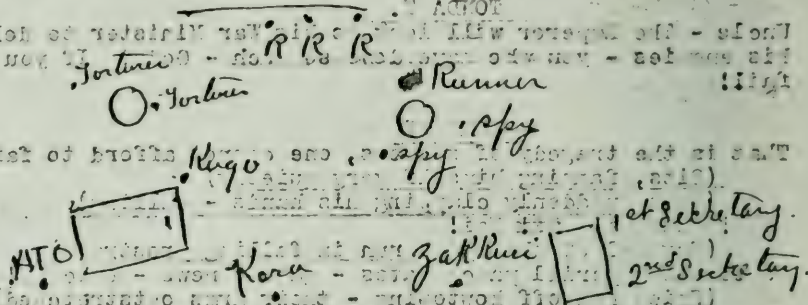
ECHO

(Outside of the spies)
Capture... capture... capture...

TAR)

(Stepping forward, kowtowing)
Kato, a carp fisher - I took him by the Bay of Monkeys on the Inland sea... He has served food to Kara's men.

SANKURI

 R
R
R
Torturer
Torturer
Runner
Spy
Spy
Kugo
ATO
Kora
Zakkuri
1st Sekretary
2nd Sekretary

Karloff R.B.E

Zakkuri (quietly)

Have you questioned him?

ATO

He says that he has never seen them.

ZAKKURI

Of course... Bring Kara!
(Ato goes to door R. - To Taró)
Keep the fisherman outside until I want him....
(to a spy)
Tcho! Have that door left open!
(Pointing L.)
(Tcho slides the door L. open - Zakkuri has waved his hand and as all spies exeunt)
Taro, remain!
(Taró waits at back - All doors are closed but the one Zakkuri has ordered open. Kara enters, brought in by two half naked tattooed coolies - (torturers)
(Ato re-enters and takes his old place. Zakkuri bows to Kara with profound ceremony - Kara is motionless)

Will you be seated?

KARA

I will stand.

ZAKKURI

Be seated, I beg!

KARA

I will stand....

ZAKKURI

Then I must stand - in order not to be impolite.
(Is assisted to rise by attendants)

TONDA T. L.C.

(Aside to Kara)
"The face in the lantern's light" is in black disgrace. I go to demand my betrothal scroll! - Dog!
(Passes out L. Kara does not move)

ZAKKURI

Permit me to ask... do you know Kato, a fisher of carp?
(Kara is silent)
(With a cat-like smile)
By the inland sea?... Well?
(Turning to Taró)
The Honorable Kara is not certain... Bring Kato.

at door - Hai Kato, Taro Kato, (murmurs off L

KARA

That is needless... I do not know him!

(Taro in doorway, claps hands at a gesture from Zakkurim and calls "Hai! Kato!" Kato appears and is brought forward by Taro. He is tanned brown, is much frightened - his manner is very simple. An oar is over his shoulder and on it hangs a basket of silver carp)

ZAKKURI

Come forward!

(As they bring Kato into place to see Kara's face, he drops to his knees) bowing to Zakkuri.

KATO

Master! Daimyo! Lord!

ZAKKURI

Ahh! You do not know him!...

KARA

...The outlaw knows no one, Zakkuri. His friendship is too costly...

KATO

(Half whispering)

August Master, this is a dreadful place - Gods, what I have heard and seen --

KARA

-Courage, Kato!

ZAKKURI

Kato, how do you know Prince Kara?

KATO

I am a fisher of the inland sea... I....

ZAKKURI

Answer!

(Kato is silent)

You sell him food?

KATO

No, I give it... I bring them my best silver carp...because -

ZAKKURI

- Them... You mean his ten Samurai?

KATO

(After looking at Kara)

No. I do not know them...

dren - I have [illegible]

ZAKKURI

I perceive you are one of those to whom the Samurai are still a creed - ~~forgetting that the Emperor~~ -

(Bows)

has recalled their swords - you remember only how long and well they have fought for your country - you would give them your souls... Answer!

KATO

Yes, most high War Lord, I have been taught to love the Samurai. We poor fishers believe them the last flash of the old Glory of our Japan.

(During this, Taro has drawn near Zakkuri and spoken to him)

KARA

(In a low voice, warningly)

Kato!

KATO

(Looking at him)

Great Dainyo! Was I wrong?

ZAKKURI

Turn his back!

(The two torturers turn Kara's back to Kato, and hold him)

As your father was a Samurai, so are you at heart....

(Pointing at him with his finger)

always it is so... it is in the blood. You have taken the Oath he handed down - you are an humble follower of this cause you love... you cannot deceive me... Where, Kato, did you last give these ten, your carp?

KATO

(With simple amazement)

How did you know my Father was --

ZAKKURI

- I know everything... I shall know if you lie... Where were they?

(Kato, with agony in his face, looks towards Kara and is silent)

KATO

(Handling his oar, uneasily)

By the Inland seas, lord of War.

ZAKKURI

The Inland seas are large Kato, ten thousand miles -

KARA

(In [illegible])

KATO

High Excellency! I am a poor fisherman, I have a wife and chil

dren - I have done nothing - nothing --

ZAKKURI

- Answer my questions! And I will set you free!

KARA

(Still held with his back to Kato)

Kato, do not speak!

ZAKKURI

Do you love your hut - your inland seas, Kato?

KATO

(Simply)

Oh yes, War Lord, as my life. My birth ~~hour~~ was upon our seas.

ZAKKURI

Have you a wife?

KATO

(Aghast)

Oh, mighty War Lord... they would wait... and wait - and always wait... and waiting... die...

ZAKKURI

All of them?

KATO

All of them, Lord of War...

ZAKKURI

I want Kara's ten men carrying two swords... on them depends your liberty, the silver carp waiting for your dry nets... little Niji, the smile... the three dutiful children...

(Kato, with agony in his face, looks towards Kara and is silent)

...and if you do not speak, it is death.

KATO

(In a paroxysm of fear - almost in a whisper)

Death!...

(Wipes his wet hands on his nets, looking at them as though at the damp sweat)

KARA

(As before)

Courage, Kato!

KATO

Death!...
(Calls out)
...Niji! Little Tani!
(Standing in mute helplessness)

KARA

(to himself)
Poor Kato!

ZAKKURI

(Smiling)
Now Daimyo Kara, I have spoken... What hope can you offer him?

KARA

(With his back still held to Kato)
None... Thousands of our Samurai have died for something greater... as I shall die today... for love of those who love their country and have fought for it...the deeds of the Samurai are our creed... they ~~have run high our country again and again~~... they ~~smiled and fought unarmed~~, and never betrayed...There is only a handful left ... but still the old voice of honor calls from the shadows of a thousand years - honor - loyalty - Death - Courage, Kato!

ZAKKURI

Well Kato....

KATO

If I - (a step towards Zakkuri knels.

KARA

(Turning before the men can stop him and kneeling)
No!... Courage!

KATO

(Dazed)
...~~My wife~~... ~~my children~~... they Shaka-Gods they will look for me to come home when the dusk hour falls and the Junks steal in, and fold their sails... they will look for Kato....and wait....and wait...

ZAKKURI

(Clapping his hands) goes to trap R.C opens it.
Kugo!
(Kugo enters instantly)
Take him to the room of the mysteries.
(Bows)
The speechless speak quickly there....

KATO

Shaka! Gods!... Do not take me - I have heard there are torments there - Oh Lord of War, most high Lord....
(As Kugo and the two coolies approach)

Ready - 4 Singing Girls - 6 Geisha dancing

(Calls out)

...Kato! Little Tami!

(Kneeling in mute helplessness)

Asami

2 children off L 3E

KATO

(to himself)

Poor Kato!

Kojiu
4 Runners } off L 3E

(Pitiing)

Mr Dalyo Hara, I have come... Yuki... can you offer him

HARA

(With the book still held to his)

Hara... Thousands of our ancestors have died for something great- er... so I shall die today... For love of those who love their country and have fought for it...the dead of the Samurai are our creed... They were the country's spirit and truth... they raised a tomb... and never surrender...There is only Bushido left... but still the old voice of honor calls from the shadows of a thousand years - honor - loyalty - Death - Courage, Kato!

RAKUGI

Well Kato....

KATO

It I - (a sigh towards Gaffiori Hara)

HARA

(Turning before the man can stop him and kneeling)

No!... Courage!

KATO

(Dazed)

...Hara... ...they will look for me to come home when the dark hour falls and the Jumbe steal in, and fold their coils... they will look for Kato...and wait....and wait...

RAKUGI

(Clutching his throat)

I say!

(Hugo enters instantly)

Take him to the room of the mysteries.

(Hugo)

The speechless speak quickly there....

KATO

Hara! ... Do not take me - I have heard there are torments there - Oh Lord of Hell, meet Mr. Lord....

Aie - Shaka... they will make me speak!
(Buries his face in his hands)

ZAKKURI

Take him!

KARA

(Still kneeling)
Kato! Kato! Remember the oath you took from your Father!

KATO

(As Kugo divests him of his oar and basket, leaving them on the stage)
They will make me speak... they will make me .
(He is taken down by Kugo)

KARA

Courage!
(Kato is now out of sight - the faint call of "Niji" is heard)
Kato -
(The trap is closed suddenly)

ZAKKURI

This simple fisher will tell - what do you say?

KARA

Yebisu!
(Picks up a sword from a rack and turns like a flash against Zakkuri. Instantly all the attendants leave the room with lanterns save Ato who darts forward and throws a cloak over the one remaining lantern. At the same time a sudden glare of light pours out from doorway L. upon Kara, dazzling him - he puts his hands to his eyes staggering, blinded for an instant - instantly the coolies seize him and hold him)

ZAKKURI

The servant of the Emperor has a thousand eyes.

KARA

That he may not trust to his courage!
(The light on him disappears. The lanterns are brought back - Ato removes cloak and resumes his old place)
(Speaks through:

ZAKKURI

(Speaks through the little trap in his platform)
Has he spoken?

Rosy Kyg ready L.3E

Take him!

(Still struggling)

Ato! Ato! Remember the oath you took! Your Ato!

(As Ugo directs Min of his car and bundle, leaving them on the stage)

They will make me spook... they will make me .

(He is taken down by Ugo)

Courage!

(Ato is now out of sight - the faint call of "Min" is heard)

Ato -

(The trap is closed suddenly)

SANCHA

This simple flicker will tell - what do you say?

ATA

Relax!

(Picks up a sword from a rack and turns like a flash on that Rajkumar. Knocks all the attendants leaving the room with lanterns save Ato who dashes forward and throws a cloak over the red hot lamp lantern. At the same time a sudden glare of light lures out from doorway L. upon Ato, dancing - it was the signal to the ever observing, Minded for an instant - instantly the cobbler seize him and - off him)

SANCHA

That is my cut trust in his courage!

(The light on his face dies. The lanterns may flicker out - Ato removes cloak and resumes his old place)

(Curtain drawing)

SANCHA

(Speaks through the little trap in his platform) Are he prepare?

Wood block & Cymbals to sequence to dance when lanterns are placed on stage

KUGO

(Below)
One moment, Lord!
(Interval of waiting)

ZAKKURI

Well?

KUGO'S VOICE

He is dead!

ZAKKURI

But he spoke?

KUGO

He died without a word....

KARA

(Kneeling over Kato's net)
Brave Kato... the Gods hasten your soul to the golden lotus fields.

ZAKKURI

(For the first time losing his composure)
And you permitted him to die without one -
(Shuts trap in his platform e rising)
Yebis!
(Taro steals up to L.C., taking Kato's oar and basket - the two coolies retreat nearer to door R. - all looking at Zakkuri in fear - save Kara who stands C.)
Take him back !
(Kara passes through open door R. coolies following him - cringing, door closes L. - door closes R.)

ZAKKURI

(Standing alone for a second, goes to the War God) Kneelin
August Ojin-Temo!
(Pawing) (48) A
Cod of War, my life-god... Magnanimously give me these ten swords - not for my own glory - but that I may humbly lay them at your invincible feet.... Ato!
(Ato starts up from behind the God)
Fresh rice and incense for -
(Kneeling, kissing its feet) kneeles
Ojin-Temo, mightiest of the eight thousand! O S Top

KOJIN

(Appearing R.C. smiling)

(48) B

The Geisha! Madame Asami!

~~# Wood~~

Ready

Ato, Josan & Inu - R.

(Zakkuri is on his feet in a moment, Ato exit. A broad smile comes over Zakkuri's face - his eyes glisten as the Geisha come whirling and dancing in - Madame Asani last - blooming, self-confident, and magnificently dressed, her hair done marvellously with pins and flowers. Madame Asani coquettishly stands before him - As music becomes more P.P. and Geisha dance in the back-ground)

ZAKKURI

Close the doors! Light more lanterns! Let none enter! Sake! Cushions!

(Kojin and attendants bring in lanterns, set out a little table with wine on it and a smoking outfit. Ato, re-enters with a bowl of steaming rice and incense - placing them in front of War God - bowing)

MADAME ASANI

So you are graciously hard to please to-day, my vast lord Zakkuri?

ZAKKURI

Yes, luscious Asani. The Emperor's servant seeks to grasp in one brief hour, a long life's pleasures. Life is so uncertain at present... So dance! Geisha! Something I have not yet seen!

(They change the movement quickly - music still P.P. Movement not pronounced)

MME. ASANI

Lord, you shall live at least two magnificent, glittering life-times - in one hour --

ZAKKURI

Geisha promise much! Begin!

(Sits on platform of his desk and watches them with half-shut eyes)

MME. ASANI

(to Geisha)

The dance of the blowing blossoms.

(The Geisha at back have kept up a dance movement, but now at a tap of the little drums, they divest themselves of the upper parts of the first kimonos, appearing in more gorgeous ones - they break into the "blowing blossom" dance - they toss cherry blossom petals from their sleeves as they dance and fan them into the air. The drums are tapped by 3 little Geisha apprentices - 7 years old - Asani commanding all by clapping her hands. Asani playfully throws blossoms on Zakkuri)

GEISHA

(Sing)
Chocho! Chocho!
Na no ha ni tomare!
Na no ha ga ivenari,
Te ni tomare!

ZAKKURI

(Pleased - during singing)
Ho!

(At a signal from Asani drums tap louder and Geisha slip down upper parts of kimono again - all dressed in gay red transparent jikans. Their bodies showing through. They shake little bunches of bells they carry. The dance begins comes more wanton)
(Asani puts on a little more rouge from her box in sleeve)

MME. ASANI

(As she dances - song has come to an end)
Zakkuri, how long will you adire me?

ZAKKURI

Oh always.

MME. ASANI

Swear that by Ojin-Tenno! - the War God yet fear.

ZAKKURI

I do not involve Ojin-Tenno in Geisha affairs!

MME. ASANI

Aie! - You tired of all the others!

ZAKKURI

But Ah, there is only one dove-eyed Asani - only one --

ATO

(Who has entered R.C. - now half whispers to Zakkuri)
- The Princess Yo-san approaches.
(Zakkuri rises to his feet - then with a sweeping gesture)

Asani "Oh, Zakkuri
Oh Stop M.

ZAKKURI

Away! - All!
(All stop dancing - Ato motions Asani and Geisha to go to upper L. door, sliding open door - Geisha exeunt - Asani hesitates and looks at Zakkuri)
(Sharply)
Quickly! Go!
(In her haste she drops her fan, forgets her toilet-box - and runs off)

8th plane —

gray Kimona —

purple jacket —

Paper —

Who rides with her?

ATO

(Closing door after Geisha)

Inu... the mute....

ZAKKURI

See that he does not enter!

(Exit to his private room, lower L, door)

'Ato quickly sits on mat by door C., innocent-faced - now expectant - The lights of the lanterns throw strange fantastic shadows which flicker on the floor of the two-sword room... there is a slight pause... and great door opens slowly, Yo-san appears - she wears a rain cloak and hood over a white kimono. Inu is behind her - outside the door)

YO-SAN

Zakkuri!

ATO

(turning his head, without moving, to look at her)

I will call his Excellency.

(Rises)

Your servant may not enter...

(Yo-san motions Inu to stay outside and Ato closes door and passes through door down L.)

(Yo-san looks about timidly, then steals down the steps - comes forward and pauses - shrinking, afraid. The door L.C. slides open and Rosy Sky slips in, closing it behind her instantly - Yo-san turns. The two raise their arms horizontally - in surprise - they stand staring at each other)

Yo-San (afraid - gazing at War God.

YO-SAN

The Cour - te - san!

(Rosy Sky now wears very faded finery, bedraggled, shabby, As they converse, in half whispers, she is always on the alert)

ROSY SKY

What do you do here... little lady - in Zakkuri's palace? Kejo! There is sorrow in your eyes -

YO-SAN

(Putting her hand on her head)

I am in miserable sorrow...

ROSY SKY

Is it about me?

YO-SAN

Kojii & Goto ready up L.3. to present Rosy Sky's escape.

A man!

ROSY SKY

(Simply - no intensity in her manner)

They are all our trouble... I do not love the imposing Zakkuri-whose name is a heart thrust - no - I revile him! See what he has done for me!... "Kitsu" he said, as he took me from the dancers in the street. He gave me an hundred servants, a lacquered house! I had a gilded name - distinction! - I did not even walk - I was carried! - And then he took it all away - sold me to his friend for one rin! Just as I stood in all, my silks - one little rin! When I was worth a thousand golden yen! Jigogu - I was the august Geisha of them all - now I am dirt under their sandals! He!

(Putting her hands to her head)

When I think of it, I cannot stay away... I return to vex and pester him!

(Passing his door L. on tip-toe, as though she would like to go in but dare not - pausing suddenly)

What do you seek of Zakkuri with an unpainted face?

YO-SAN

(Wiping a tear away - with her finger tip)

A life !

ROSY SKY

Of that Zakkuri! Hai' Hai! Then tie your obi in front as the badge of a courtesan ~~who has something to give~~. Look!

(Picking up Asami's fan)

Asami 's!

(Points to box Asami has left on table)

Paint! Women - women - women - and always fresh ones... Smile, sing, amuse him - do Geisha tricks - dance! - Dance! - drink his sake -

(Seeing Yo-san wiping away another tear)

but do not weep if you ask of Zakkuri - the Prince of Hell!

(Bowing to his door - opening her fan with a whirr)

Nothing for nothing is given here! Be a courtesan! Tie your obi in front or go!

(Suddenly notions that some one is coming - Yo-san is already up - in the shadow. Rosy Sky shrinks against the screen - standing uncertainly - as though she repented her rashness in coming)

ZAKKURI

(Re-entering in state costume, attended by Ato and two attendants - seeing the back of Rosy Sky, mistaking her for Yo-san, approaches her with extreme politeness)

Your honorable wish, madame?

(Rosy Sky turns her face to him - he gives her an awful look - then in a low threatening voice)

Ato!

ATO

(Seizing her by the shoulder, in a low voice)

How did you enter, ~~Hell-woman!~~ ~~Out!~~

ZAKKURI

~~(Who by this time has been Yo-san)~~

Sh! ~~I am surprised and shocked~~ by ~~your~~ manner. Tell the strange woman that -

(Meaning Rosy Sky)

she comes ~~just~~ next.

(Aside to Ato)

~~Let that be in the next world!~~

ATO

(to Rosy Sky, obseqiously kowtowing)

Madame, this way.

(Pointing R.)

ROSY SKY

(Looking from one to the other)

I think I will not wait... I... will go....

(Starts to run up to door)

ATO

(preventing her by catching her Kimono - drawing her towards R.)

This way!

(Terribly frightened, circles about to find the door - turning completely around - dazed)

ZAKKURI

This way!

(Flings open door himself)

It is nearer!

(Obsequious, polite)

(As she passes off - to Ato

~~Light a thousand lanterns!~~ ~~Go~~ not omit the soul boats - later...

(Ato passes off by the sliding door. Yo-san who has been looking at Rosy Sky and step by step has backed up, now stands against the wall in the centre of the room - almost hidden in her sleeves)

(Keeping well down R. with the air of not knowing to whom he is speaking)

What fair stranger honors my miserable official apartments?

(A slight pause, then as though he had not caught her answer)

~~What?~~

(Yo-san, still standing pressed against the wall, lifts her rain hood - the light from a near-by lantern falling upon her face, Zakkuri affects surprise - awe)

Ah!

(He draws in his breath through his teeth, bowing in the most obseqiious manner)

~~The magnificent Princess!~~ The Exalted O-Yo-san deigns to allow

her feet to touch my mats...
(Kowtows)
considerately be seated, Yuko Yumo.
(Points to cushions - ~~she sits at one side of~~ table. Zakkuri crosses one leg - rests his hand on the shoulders of the two attendants and sits on other side of table. As the attendants open door R. to exeunt - there is a muffled shriek from Rosy Sky - which is cut off by the closing of the door, as they pass out)

exactly as Zakkuri sits.

YO-SAN

What was that? There?

ZAKKURI

I heard nothing, transcendent Princess.

~~YO-SAN~~

There -
(Points off L.)

ZAKKURI

(Understandingly)
Oh... Sometimes I think there are restless spirits which haunt this old place of strange memories... I beg you to be at ease in my distasteful surroundings... Permit me... Augustly...
(starts to remove her cloak)

YO-SAN

(Agitated)
Honorably allow me to state my errand.
(As Kansan grasps a cloak, he deliberately drags it - hand over hand - to his side of the table - which is between them)

ZAKKURI

(Feigning great admiration)
Surely the Gods wrought that superb and tempting Kimono out of the mists...
(Kowtowing)
(Her Kimono is of soft clinging white, girlish and simple - yet with long sleeves and soft long train)

YO-SAN

August Zakkuri, I - come to --

ZAKKURI

- I am overwhelmed by your condescension... Permit me abjectly
(Pours out a cup of sake - offering it to her)
Some of my very poor refreshment.
(Kowtows)

(Yo-san bows, mechanically touches her lips to it. Zakkuri pretends to drink, but does not - watching her under half-closed eye-lids)

Ah! Deign to excuse my delinquent manners... I was humbly over come... Accept a silver pipe for a little lady - Ha!

(Smiles - hands it - lights his own)

YO-SAN

(Not lighting pipe)

I cannot smoke today, because my heart is too filled with - something ... I... I come to ~~ask of~~ you... ~~vast War Minister,~~

~~ZAKKURI~~

~~(Sx Smoking)~~

~~Yes?...~~

Because

YO-SAN

(Her voice trembling)

You have always known me... in my ... my Father's house... Dead ~~and it was there you told me that life was full of shadows... well... now I have seen those shadows... and so I come to you to help me~~ because you are so - powerful... You must be able to give - life... Yes?... Yes?...

(as he does not answer - half-whispering - overcome)

Oh, Great Zakkuri, I have sheltered your enemy Kara, and lied - that - was - rep - reprehensible... Oh yes indeed!... but vast one - love has the power to make me undutiful to my parent and all my beautiful friends... that is most discreditable!

(Finding her words with difficulty)

But after certain intimate things have been said - between a man and a woman - I do not perceive how one can die and make all naught... You think that, too?

(tugging at his sleeve)

... Say so?... No?

(struck)

Oh, I did not tell you the Gods made me to desire such things as those ki-esses and ember-aces...and for these, I have given to Kara all my souls... so he cannot die - I love him - he cannot --

(Looking at Zakkuri - changing, smiling politely)

not just now - ~~soon - August one~~... Humbly I ask you to kindly permit him to live... Kara to live.

(Kowtows to floor)

ZAKKURI

(Without moving smokes)

That is very much to ask, is it not? What do you wish to give for it?

~~YO-SAN~~

~~You do not tell - kindly - quickly - what you want... [illegible]~~

YO-SAN

To give?

ZAKKURI

You honor me by coming here - where all is conducted for contemptible gain...

YO-SAN

Oh! ... I will give --
(Pauses - trying to think what she can give)
My Father has cast me out - I have no possessions!

ZAKKURI

No?

YO-SAN

Worshipful Zakkuri, I will give you anything I can... that you ask... that you tell me...
No? (as he blows up a cloud of smoke)
Only pitifully mention it quickly - considerately.
(Bows)

ZAKKURI

What an original and distinguished idea... that anything moves quickly in a war office... My answer will require much tact, ~~finesse~~ - persuasive power... ~~not celerity~~.

YO-SAN

Oh Zakkuri... when the heart hurts... politeness stops at the lips... please... What do you ~~honorably~~ wish... Tell me...
(~~With your breath~~)
~~Sake!~~

ZAKKURI

Shaka! How you tremble at thought of harm to this man! Gods!
(Without lifting the lantern, he turns it so the light shines on her face)
This outlaw ~~has taught you very much... ah? You who were so shrinking, so full of temple manners - you are awake - I thank Harm~~... Yebisu! We shall trade with zest....
(Picks up lantern - rises to his knees and turning light on her - leers at her)
Hai! You have much to offer... Your cheeks are ripe fresh fruit... your eyes are flaunting velvet banners, challenging... your lips are luscious to the thirsty -
(drawing nearer)
Aié - you are different from these Geisha!

YO-SAN

You do not tell - kindly - quickly - what you want... that we may - trade.

ZAKKURI

A moment ago... I begged of Ojin-Tenno
(Pointing to the War God)
only one wish... that was all I wanted - then - Now, I am possessed by another.

YO-SAN

Vadt August one - honorably what?

ZAKKURI

(Sending up a cloud of smoke)
You!....
(A pause - Yo- san, blinking, k looks at him not comprehending - he continues to smoke)

YO-SAN

Me?

ZAKKURI

Pardon, imposing Princess, I observe that my unworthy sake remains untouched.
(Sets the cup in her hand)

YO-SAN

(holding it, not drinking)
I do not comprehend... but do I understand you want my life - for his?... ~~Yes... yes... allow me to~~ honorably permit you to take it....
(Bows)
- To the ~~heavens~~! Bobo!
(Drinks)

ZAKKURI

That is not what I desire...

YO-SAN

No? -

ZAKKURI

But we approach... it is always like this when people trade....
(~~as though it were already settled~~) more like a proposal
Oh, we will trade today.. Let us say you have already had your request - that it is granted.

YO-SAN

His life?

ZAKKURI

(With his half shut eyes devouring her greedily)
~~There is nothing I would not give to so tantalizing a woman.~~
(strokes her hand with his finger tips)

YO-SAN

(Relieved, trying to smile)
Hai! She was right - that poor Rosy Sky; - she said you would do anything for women - women and laughter - and song - and Hai - no tears!... Oh good, distinguished, noble, high-born, exalted, considerate Lord Zakkuri! I will give you all that richly! Hai! Hai! I will amuse you. I will paint my cheeks redder with beni, ~~for you will~~ set my lover's feet out of the ~~tray of the snare!~~ - He - free - Gods! ~~Now I shall please you... You love song -- Well, I will begin for you now.~~
(He has moved ~~the table from between them, and drawn her head on his shoulder~~ - she sings)
"There are fleet loves, and sweet loves,
And loves of all seasons -
And loves without reasons -
And great love - like mine - "
(With a sob - breaks down on his shoulder)

ZAKKURI

You shall live in my palace... You shall be as an Empress - a favorite wife.

YO-SAN

Wife?

ZAKKURI

Being cast out ~~and under ban~~ - of course - I cannot marry you...

YO-SAN

(Immovable, looks at him steadily, then raises her head - a long drawn breath)
Oh!....
(Zakkuri takes her hands - she draws them away - stunned)
Friend of my Father! Now I know....
(Struck - pointing to door through which Rosy Sky went)
She was that to you --
(as it dawns fully on her)
That is being a courtesan! Gods! Gods!

ZAKKURI

(Chuckling, incredulously)
Hai! ~~Hai! Hai! Hai!~~

YO-SAN

(As he puts his arms about her)

Kugo-ready R 3

Ready Kojiu & attendants L 3 E

Clear stage

Ready Ato up C.

" 4 Guards

" 4 Heralds

" Imperial Messenger.

(Pushing him away and down with a gutteral exclamation)
Ahhhh!
(Rises to her feet, looks at him - not standing erect, but with the peculiar bend of the Japanese)
Shame! There are devils in your hands - your eyes. - You would make me a serpent - to trail in the dust - to be turned under your heel - to crawl before the alters - the creature lowest in all the hells! You, the small, the horrible Zakkuri would debase me before my ancestors in the seventeen great heavens - make their ghosts spit upon my tomb! - Gods, you would make me a courtesan! - No! I am a Princess of the House of Tosan - the blood of a thousand Princes is in my veins...
(starting)
I go to the Emperor - He cannot be as terrible as his servant Zakkuri - Inu! Inu!
(The Geisha begin the same song they sang before)

ZAKKURI
(Who is seated with an air of indifference - claps his hands)
Too bad we cannot trade today!
(Yo-san, who has gone to door, ignoring Zakkuri's words, now opens it)
For death is swifter than your feet - it is Kara's death hour!
(~~In to Ato, who appears~~)
~~Keep them~~ quiet....
(Pointing to room Geisha are in - Ato passes into it - singing ceases. Yo-san shuts the door again - looking at Zakkuri, who has turned it to his desk arranging papers - as though to say "the interview is over." He strikes the gong and ostensibly looks down, but in reality keeps her under his gaze)

YO-SAN
(At door)
There is nothing else, compassionate War lord?

ZAKKURI
(Pretending to think she has gone)
Oh... you are there yet?... No... we cannot trade today....
(Kugo enters)
Let there be a unison of trumpets when Kara is taken out.... then a ruffle of drums to portend the beginning of the march... Two platoons with masks and Tanake the tall executioner in yellow and red.... then the prisoner... without his houri... be ready....
(Kugo exit R. kowtowing)
(Yo-san puts two little round rings of Asami's paint on her cheeks and step by step, moves towards Zakkuri's desk - then slowly turns her obi around)
(Looking up from desk)
Yes?.....

YO-SAN

(Perfectly cold)

Yes....

~~(Ato has re-entered and passing to door C., opened it a trifle and quickly closed it)~~

~~ATO~~

~~(to Zakuri)~~

Honorable Tonda-Tanji!

(Tonda-Tanji knocks outside)

~~ZAKURI~~

~~Well?~~

~~(Ato bars his passage so he cannot see within)~~

TONDA T.

(His voice portending his awe of what he has seen)

I went to the palace of the Prince of Tosan - I forced my way in and I spoke to a dead man....

(Zakuri waves to Ato, who closes the door, passing out)

ZAKURI

(To Yo-San, who has made no movement or show of grief - bowing)

Your Father is dead --

YO-SAN

(Impassive)

Yes?

ZAKURI

You do not understand me....

(Bowing again)

Your Father is augustly dead!

YO-SAN

(In the same tone)

Chwyes....

ZAKURI

You, you see the fates give you to Zakuri!

(About to touch her hand)

YO-SAN

Do not touch me... do not speak to me... Keep to that trading..

ZAKURI

Oh, I will set him free....

YO-SAN

I ~~want~~ would like to see him pass that shoji -

ZANKURI

You doubt me?

YO-SAN

I would like very much to see him pass that shoji -
(Pointing)
- to know that he goes back to his men free... I shall find that out.

ZANKURI

How can you?

YO-SAN

I shall know.

~~ZANKURI~~

~~Then my word is not enough?~~

~~YO-SAN~~

~~I shall first see if you keep it - if he is with his men.~~

ZANKURI

(Cunningly)
~~But~~ how will you know when he is back with his men?

YO-SAN

(Stolid)
I know where they are....

ZANKURI

Oh...
(A slight pause - smiling)
Then you will find me out if I deceive you... Yebisu! You would tie my hands.... Hai! Hai! Hai!
(Laughing)
That is cunning!
(Re-assuringly) X's to his desk L.
Aie! To show you how honorably anxious I am to have your distinguished confidence... I will do even more than you ask... I will secure the pardon of every one of these ten Samurai... Shaka! I will not rest until I remove the edict against them...
(Rubbing brush over ink-stone) (follows)
Tell me where I may let them know....
(Preparing to write)
- where I may find them -
(His face shows his eagerness to have them)

YO-SAN

I want to see him pass that about -

SAMURAI

You doubt me?

YO-SAN

I would like very much to see him pass that about -
(Pointing)
- to know that he goes back to his own tree... I shall find that out.

SAMURAI

How can you?

manner changes to fear.

I shall know.

SAMURAI

Then my word is not to be right?

YO-SAN

I shall find out - if you can prove - if he is within the gate.

SAMURAI
(Quickly)
Now how will you know when he is back with his song?

YO-SAN
(Stolid)
I know where they are....

SAMURAI

Oh...
(A dull red comes - smiling)
Then you will find me out if I deceive you... Yoshi! You would die by bamboo.... Ha! Ha! Ha!
(Low line)
That is cunning!
(Co-conspirator) X X X
Ale! To show you how horribly anxious I am to have your distinguished confidence... I will do even more than you ask... I will secure the garden of every one of these ten Samurai...? Sure! I will not rest until I remove the debt against them...
(Laughing through over the stones) X X X
Tell me where I may see them now....
(Hesitating to say so)
- where I may FIND them -
(His face shows his eagerness to have them)

YO-SAN

(Who has not moved)

You give too much!... Let Kara pass that shoji....

ZAKKURI

(Gradually rising)

What? ... I have chosen to smile and jest with you - but we have smiled enough. Do not forget that my promise is next to the Emperor's! My word is great, august, awful, supreme! I am -

(~~He turns to her~~ as though about to awe her with his greatness - when Ato dashes in with a blanched face calling "Master!" falling prostrate. Instantly outside at back is heard a blare of trumpets in unison. He motions Yo-san to retreat - she steps behind the screen)

The Emperor's messenger! Gods!... What?

(He ~~[illegible]~~ claps his hands, attendants come on, pick up the cushions, table and said quickly and hasten off. He bows down, prone - Ato retreats off - the big doors open wide as four Heralds enter, preceding the Imperial Messenger. The escort Guards stand at the back, in the corridor - Messenger bears the great scroll. One Herald carries an arrow)

HERALDS

(Together)

~~Bow! Bow! Bow!~~ Rise, receive the words

(Yo-san stands behind ~~screen - Zakkuri is most obsequious~~!

~~Bow low to the messenger~~ of the Heavendescended ruler of everlasting Great Japan!

(The messenger standing without salutation, very superb, touches scroll bearing message, to his forehead, then holds it out, not even looking at Zakkuri, but straight ahead - Zakkuri lies flat)

A HERALD

(Taking an iron arrow with a sharp point and piece of parchment attached - and throwing it with such force that it sticks into the floor at his feet)

An arrow of the outlaws which entered the Sacred Walls!

3. ANOTHER HERALD

Rise! Receive the words of the Heaven-descended Ruler of everlasting Great Japan.

(Zakkuri crawls on his knees to the messenger, and with every show of the craven touches the message to his forehead very devoutly. A fan-fare is sounded in corridor. The messenger and Heralds speak in sing-song tones)

MESSENGER

(Reads from Imperial Scroll)

"Therefore the Sacred person of the Celestial One being

threatened, his servant Zakkuri is allowed no longer than the dusk hour of the morrow to fulfill his promise to find - to kill - these last ten under the two-sword edict!"

YO-SAN

(Comprehending Zakkuri's treachery to her)

Aie!

HERALDS

(In unison)

"... These the last words of the Heaven born!"

MESSENGER

Answer!

ZAKKURI

The abject servant of the Heaven-descended one, understands!

MESSENGER

What does the servant of the Heaven-descended augustly forfeit if he fail?

ZAKKURI

(On his knees, bowing)

His life!

(A fan-fare sounds outside in corridor. As the retinue moves backwards)

HERALDS

(in unison)

Good sleep! Good health! Long life!

(Zakkuri has kowtowed again - literally lying prone as cortege moves off amid a fan-fare - the doors close. Zakkuri rises, his face drawn, he is shaking with fear - he wipes the sweat from his forehead and lips and going to the God Ojin-Tenno, throws himself upon it, abjectly fawning - clinging to it)

ZAKKURI

Ojin-Tenno! OjineTenno! Do not forsake me - pitifully! Pitifully do not let me die.

(Burning paper prayers to it)

I have fed you the vapor of sacred rice - I have made you my life- God! - I ---

(Pauses - suddenly struck, but still clinging to the God, he turns his face to Yo-san, who has come out and reversed her obi to the back again)

I will trade with you in a different way.

YO-SAN

(Looking at him)

Lies!

(Seizing tasseled cymbals from Ojin-Tenno's feet and beating them to attract Ojin-Tenno's notice)

Ojin-Tenno! Ojin Tenno! A liar prays to you! Curse him & blacken his face - ~~punish him~~ -

ZAKKURI

Let him! I ask him to - if the trading be not fair - this time -

(The clang of the gong - then the chanting of priests heard off R. - pointing)

... The priests begin to chant for Kara!

(Yo-san, bowing, ~~crying out~~)

Yo-san... do not weep - tell me where his ten are ~~and I will open that door~~ -

(Pointing)

~~- the street door! So! - cried in the name of Zakkuri!... they shall put his swords in his girdle and all shall swear that he is dead... I give him back to you without so much as touching your most desired hand... you see the bargain - the magnificent gift?...~~ Much for nothing as you first wished.

(Smiling)

~~Considerately permit me to open the door, exalted Princess.~~

(As she does not answer - he starts - struck with a revulsion of feeling)

You - you do not know where these men are! You said that to deceive me - you lied! You lied! You - if you knew, you would not let him die - you could not!

YO-SAN

There was a moment, O Zakkuri, of parting today... this morning... when I stood outcast... In all this world I had only that poor place of meeting... put in my hand by - him... In solemn parting I took that trust... I cannot betray it - I cannot kill his ten - for one - even if that one be Kara. Gods! I do not know what to do! I do not know what to do - I --

(Changing)

I will not speak more - or -- ... what is honor...

ZAKKURI

What is honor?

YO-SAN

To me -now - nothing! I hate it... But - it is what he thinks, I am saying... I must think! - it is not what is in me... I would take every living thing in this world and kill it for him... such is miserably love... Aié! But - what you ask - Shaka!

ZAKKURI

He will not know if --

YO-SAN

I ~~stand here, O Zakkuri, with the fires of all the hells burning in my heart~~ -
(Fighting down the desire with half-bated breath)
~~yet I am not tempted~~... I will not speak!...

ZAKKURI

(Strikes gong which ~~is very loud~~ R. ~~Door R. slides open - reddish light shows through~~ calls)
Kara!
(~~Yo-san, awed, terrified, stands in front of screen, leaning against it in dread - looking straight before her. Kara appears from entrance R. waiting for others.~~ Inside, the music of the "Unblessed dead" is played - ~~Four guards enter from R., carrying emblematical staffs, then two acolytes bring incense burners - two priests clanging the bell gong - two with staffs - then a high priest with scentre - chanting in a high voice from a scroll in another priest's hand -~~ (the others occasionally coming in, in a lower voice, as though in response - the effect is weird very impressive). ~~Two priests follow holding steaming rice bowls - another priest carries a lantern. Tanake, the executioner in red and yellow - carrying a drawn sword - is followed by a bearer of a death edict - borne on his head, ~~which~~ Kara, escorted by the two half naked torturers. He wears a loose costume - is very pale and his eyes are bandaged. After him come Zakkuri's musketmen, ~~who throw open the doors into the corridor~~ - showing more guards assembled. The daylight pours in, contrasting with the lantern light in the room. At the shoji, in corridor, curious faces are seen peering. Up by R. door over the top of a screen, the Geisha peep - their headgear now removed)

YO-SAN

(Seeing Kara)
Kara!
(Overcome, puts her hands to her bowed head)
(The Geisha look at her and giggle foolishly)

ZAKKURI

Shhh!
(They disappear)
(~~At a gesture from Zakkuri~~, Kara's keepers pause. The music sinks into a low tapping of death head drums and the occasional clang of a gong.
~~Yo-san sinks down until she is sitting on the floor, her feet crossed - her head bowed - facing Kara, but not looking up~~)

It is transgression to take leave of the proscribed and condemned... Such men are surrounded by evil spirits...against whom we now burn incense... But you are an unveiled woman...outcast by your parent... lower you cannot go... Therefore in the Emperor's name, I permit you to take leave.

(Holds up his hand - all pass into corridor - leave the two torturers who hold Kara up - and Zakkuri removes the handkerchief from Kara's eyes and goes into the shadow at back. The doors are closed. Kara stares straight before him into space - as though he saw all in a dream.

Zakkuri has paused suggestively)

Zy... It would be so simple to save him by telling where his ten Samurai are hid...

(He pauses up)

(There is a slight pause.)

YO-SAN

(Raising her head)

Lord... I.... I...

(Bows her head overcome)

have denied you life... I have dutifully remembered honor....

(with an outburst)

Aie! Turn to me - Lord! Lord! Tell me in the midst of your thoughts of that next world whose door you now look through... that you are glad... I...make you d...die... that you... wish to... to die... say so kindly... to let me know that you understand that I did this... for you... Aie...

(Wails)

The sweat of fear is on me for those moments until heaven.... but they must pass -- they have passed for others...and when they are gone and I come to you quickly -

(outstretching her arms to him)

we can smile in those lotus fields...can we not? -- Aie!

(Looks at him, he has not moved)

My heart, only say we shall meet again in Shaka's bosom for that last long sleep you told me of... which I refused this morning... only that -- Gods! Your face -- Kara!

(Wailing) (Takes his hand - it falls)

You do not know me -

(to Zakkuri)

Ah Pitiful Kwannon - you have --

(turning to Kara)

Are you already - dead?

ZAKKURI

- He but sleeps... 'tis nothing... we give them dreams that the awakening may be more terrible below....

(Pointing down)

That is our custom -- always... When he returns to be borne through the streets - none will know it is he, so heavy is the stress of the Emperor's hand of iron. Shall he then go down?

~~YO-SAN~~

~~He would have it so!~~

~~ZAKKURI~~

~~I regret your honorable desire.~~

~~(At a gesture from Zakkuri, coolies take Kara down the stairs in stage - his feet are guided, and the door is left open, a strange light coming up, resting on Yo-san, who kneels and half chants)~~

YO-SAN

To your soul I pledge - mine - forever!

~~(A low chanting begins outside - prayers - mostly in one note - there is a burst of music below)~~

KUGO'S VOICE

(Below - calls)

In the name of the Emperor!

(Zakkuri bows - looking at Yo-san - who has risen, listening - Music dies down)

~~(Geisha begin to sing in high voices - Effect of their singing is that they never really stop until their song ends - but that the music drowns them out)~~

ZAKKURI

He is awake now...

(Yo-san looking towards door in floor, takes a step - pauses)

(Music begins faintly below)

Where are these ten enemies of the Emperor?

(Smiling)

I will let Kara go. free

(Music swells - Geisha cease - voice calls below)

KUGO'S VOICE

In the name of the Emperor!

(Zakkuri bows - Yo-san puts her closed fist to her lips - silent - clamor rising - then dying out. ~~Geisha begin again~~)

ZAKKURI

Will you speak?

(Smiling)

I have sworn by Ojin-Tenno - he shall never be re-taken -

(Music starts again below)

YO-SAN

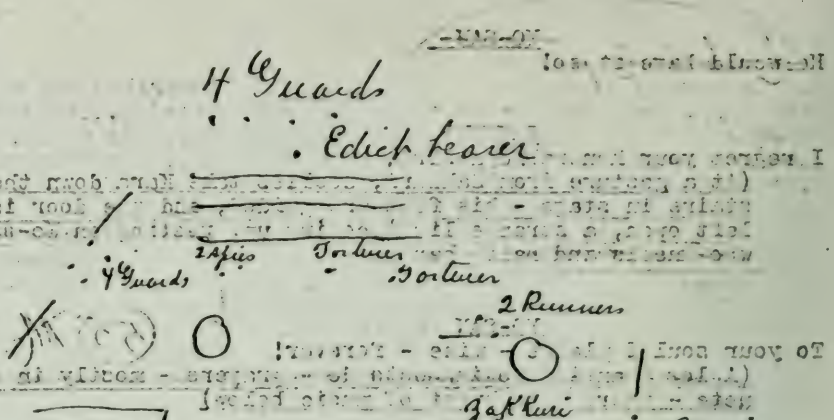
(Putting her clenched hand to her lips again - muttering against it. Geisha cease)

Zakkuri!

(Music swells)

YO-SAN

He would have it so!



To your soul! [illegible] - life - forever!
(Laughing [illegible] to - [illegible] - mostly in one note - [illegible] to [illegible])

(Pause - [illegible] - [illegible] Yo-San - the [illegible] - [illegible] down)
(Pause - [illegible] to [illegible] voices [illegible] - [illegible] their work - each - [illegible] - [illegible] drum [illegible])

ZAFFIRI

He is made mad...
(Yo-San Jumping towards door in floor, below a step - [illegible])
(Zaffiri [illegible] below)
Where are there ten [illegible] of the Emperor?
(Shouting)
I will not kill [illegible].
(Music [illegible] - voice calling below)

YO-SAN

In the name of the Emperor!
(Sudden pause - Yo-San puts her closed fist to her lips - silent - silent rising - then dying out. [illegible] - [illegible])

ZAFFIRI

Will you obey?
(Shouting)
I have sworn by Ojin-Tamo - he shall never be re-taken -
(Music starts again below)

YO-SAN

(Putting her clenched hand to her lips again - muttering [illegible]. Silence ceases)
Mercy!
(Music [illegible])

KUGO'S VOICE

(Calls)
In the name of the Emperor!

ZAKKURI

Do you speak?
(Smiling) X's takes Yo-san's hand drags her to trap -
It is not yet too late...
(Yo-san by this time is by the open trap door and looks down)

YO-SAN

(Aghast at what she sees)
Ah!
(The music(and all sound) comes to an end)

ZAKKURI

(Calling to Kugo)
Again --

YO-SAN

No! In the red bamboo forest - by the Daimyo tombs...
(Holding out the bit of parchment)
It is written here...
(As Zakkuri takes it, the music begins below and the voice calls)

KUGO'S VOICE

In the name of --

ZAKKURI

Wait, Kugo! below -
(He looks at parchment by the light coming from ~~Gim-Tonno~~, then calls with the evident purpose of being heard by Kara)
..I considerately permit the outlaw to go free...
~~(Motions Yo-san to step away from the trap door lest she should be seen. She stands in - falling upon it - wailing and beating herself with blows that sound)~~
Sh!
(Pointing - suggesting that Kara will hear her)
(Yo-san rises and staggers up towards large doors)
(Zakkuri bowing with extreme politeness)
(The air of "Nothing ever changes" is heard)
I salute you - good evening...

YO-SAN

(~~Turning - bowing mechanically - politely~~)
I salute you - good evening.
(Retreats a step)
Kara - I'd have betrayed you. I couldn't help it, I couldn't help it.

ZAKKURI

(Bowing)

I give you double bowing!

YO-SAN

Double bowing!

(Bows low - stepping back)

ZAKKURI

I break my bones towards you.

YO-SAN

Dutifully I permit it! - and likewise break my bones!

ZAKKURI

(Sitting with a sigh of great relief - taps a gong)

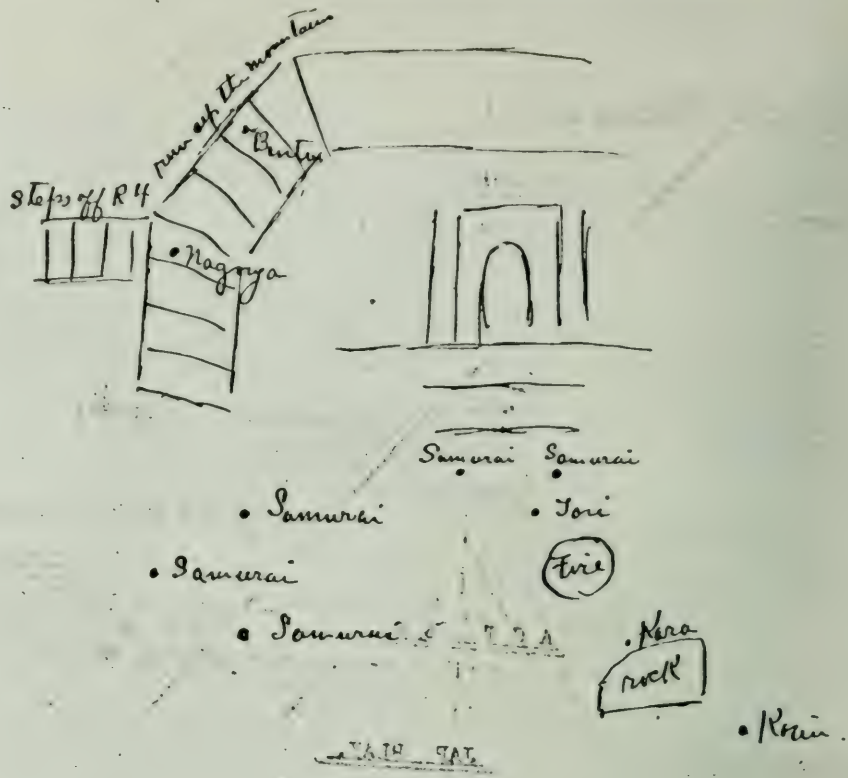
Geisha!

(Ato opens door L., and the, Asani and her troupe of Geisha come fluttering into room, fluttering down - Asani handing Zakkuri a cup of tea - Yo-San falls on the steps leading to great doors - and lies prone - Geisha rise instantly - then pause motionless - staring at her)

CURTAIN.

ACT IV.

JAP PLAY.



Toy woman
2 " Men } Ready off R4.

ACT IV.

SCENE 1: The meeting place at the ruined shrine of the Goddess Kwannon.
Dusk hour of the third day.

The shrine is at the foot of a steep mountain, rising at back. A long flight of stone steps leads down to it R. Half way up the steps, there is a sort of natural rock landing, (leading off R.) which turns into the bamboo forest (of the second scene.) Kwannon, the Goddess of Mercy, stands L., her ruined arms outstretched downward, as if in benediction - her face is benignant. A torii spans the centre of scene - on it in Japanese writing - is the inscription, "Mercy to all who pass." Sleeping birds perch on top - and under it a small fire is burning. Off L., is a ruined temple - a shrine, which shows remains of splendid carving, gilding and lacquer, the light of the fire brings this out ghostly.

The sunset is deepening to dark - the fire flickers - everything is wild - nothing suggests the rendezvous.

DISCOVERED: At the top of the steps, MENTO stands in mail, the last of the sun falling upon him. He is acting as a sentinel - his back is half turned - he looks towards R. - Half way down steps R., (at the turning in the rock) stands NAGOYA, also in mail - he is looking off towards L. - The sun comes down in a long straight streak reaching to NAGOYA - and glinting on their mail. Ten are present. Banza alone is absent. Every man wears his two swords. KARA sits gazing into the fire abstractedly. He is very tired and spent-looking. TORI stands behind Kara, looking off to R. MORIN to R. of him - is sitting - his legs crossed - his hands resting on them. The other five form a group up R. (after the celebrated picture of Napoleon's officers watching him)

Before the curtain rises, a low impressive air is played which ends - and a slight pause ensues, before the curtain goes up. The occasional sound of night birds heard calling far and near giving the effect of loneliness....)

TORI

Do you not yet see Banza, Nagoya?
(pronounced Nung-oya)

(57)

Ready Banzza x Little Sam L2E

ACT V.

SCENE I: The morning after the events of the previous scene. The Indian village. Dark hour of the third day.

The shrine is at the foot of a steep mountain, rising at back. A long flight of stone steps leads down to it R. Half way up the steps, there is a part of natural rock landing (leading off R.) which juts into the bamboo forest (of the second scene.) Yamoson, the Daimio of Yoro, stands L., her curtained arms outstretched downward, as if in benediction - her face is benignant. A tomb opens the centre of scene - on it is Sugiyama - in the inscription, "Yori is all who pass." Sleeping lies Yori on tom - and under it a small fire to warmth. Off R., is a ruined temple - a ruin, which shows remnants of splendid carving, yielding the lacquer, the light of the fire brings this into relief.

The sunset is deepening to dark - the fire flickers - everything is wild - nothing suggests the renaissance.

DISCOVERED: At the top of the steps, KUMO stands in half, the light of the sun falling upon him. He is acting as a sentinel - his back is half turned - he has crossed L. - half way down steps R. (at the turning in the rock) stands [illegible]. Also in rear - the in [illegible] L. - The sun comes down into long [illegible] [illegible] - and glinting on their [illegible]. They are present. Hanna alone is [illegible]. [illegible] between [illegible] [illegible] is reading the fire [illegible]. He is [illegible] one sport-looking. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] off to R. [illegible] to L. [illegible] - [illegible] - [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] on them. The other five form a group up R. (at [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] officers watching him)

Before the crystal river, a low impressive cliff is viewed which ends - one slight large cascade, before the curtain rises up. The cosmical sound of night birds mark silence and near giving the effect of loneliness....)

KUMO

Do you not yet see Hanna, Nagoyat
(pronounced Nag-oy-at)

NAGOYA

I see no one, save my little Sano playing.

KORIN

It is nearly time for the dusk-hour prayer.

NAGOYA

(turning and looking R.)

It will be a clear night... the bamboos stand sharp against the sky - there is no mist over the marshes...

(during this, one of the Samurai from the group up R. has thrown a branch on the fire - it sputters and crackles for an instant)

(turns again to L.)

(A faint mournful cry of the Cheda bird heard off R.)

(All start and turn)

BENTO

Listen!

TORI

The cry of the Cheda bird!

KORIN

(to Nagoya)

Who gives the signal?

TORI

Who?...

KORIN

It is not Banza! -

(58) MA

KARA

(who has risen - half to himself)

The third day... it is the third day since I parted from Yo-san...

(aloud - expectantly)

Is it a --

NAGOYA

(Who has passed off R. - now backing on)

- It is the Fox-woman!

KARA

Aie!

(Walks restlessly to and fro L.)

(A quaint weird air is played as the Fox woman enters and continues P.P. until she disappears. She comes on from the turning of the forest - her clothing shrunken and stained by contact with the woods - her grizzled hair down with leaves and twigs in it. She carries a long staff - with a small lighted lantern attached - she kowtows)

FOX WOMAN

Samurai! ~~It is the feast day of the dead.... The dead~~

(all kowtow reverently)

come home tonight....

NAGOYA

~~You shall have food.~~ Mother,

FOX WOMAN

...Today the Fox woman does not eat.

TORI

(going towards her with a basket)

Yebis, Mother, a silver carp....

FOX WOMAN

(shaking her head - motioning it away)

- Kowakatta!.. the lordly woods that I know so well have been troubled for three nights... as though they had the feeling of - strangers in them... they are restless...

TORI

(lightly)

Woman's talk!

NAGOYA

Dreaming one, eat in peace.

FOX WOMAN

Aie! the whispering loneliness is gone out of the august bamboos... something threatens!...

(listening)

Do you not hear?... Sh!...

(None of the Samurai take the Fox woman's warnings seriously)

NAGOYA (Throws carp into basket)

I hear nothing...

(smiling - calling up)
... Bento?

BENTO

There is not a breath to-night.

FOX WOMAN

Then it may be that I do not fear... I feel....
(putting her hand on her chest)
Far-seeing Bento - go - look!

BENTO

Aie! Ha! Ha!
(passes off)

NAGOYA

(echoing Bento's faint laughter)
Ha! Ha!
(Passes off)
Ha! Ha!
(Perhaps another laugh from them outside - fainter)
(The music becomes more ominous)

FOX WOMAN

I was asleep... under a blossoming tree... there was not a sigh of wind... and suddenly... out of the windless silence... a strong branch snapped and... the blossoms shook down... I thought I saw figures... men, with strange iron staffs over their shoulders...

TORI

(the only one impressed)
Could it be Zakkuri's musket men -

KORIN

(Laughing - as a night bird is heard)
Aye, guided by the birds of the air!

FOX WOMAN

I followed... trees stood where I thought they passed... their strange staffs, shadows of gnarled limbs in the moon!

TORI

(mocking Korin)
Aie!

FOX WOMAN

(cogitating)

Perhaps it was only a malignant God that flew by... but...

BENTO

(Re-appearing lower down)

Nothing!

NAGOYA

(returning)

Nothing!

FOX WOMAN

(pointing to Kara with her long bony hand - Music changes)

Daimyo! You!

(Kara, who has not been listening, but has been absorbed in his own thoughts - pauses - looking at her)

... when one has entered Nakhuri's terrible house, is it better that he does not come back - Evil follows evil!

(All grow serious, as though resenting this)

Vengeful spirits follow...

(has taken some bits of paper which she lights in her lantern - they burn in different colors - she tosses them in the air)

Go! Go! away —

(gestures as though waving spirits away)

O Stop M

NAGOYA

Peace woman!

FOX WOMAN

(as a gust of wind passes over the forest - the leaves fluttered down, blowing off)

Hear! Hear!... Look!

(takes a little bird from out the breast of her kimono, holding it out in her hand)

The frightened birds know the danger -

(the wind dies away in a mournful sound)

Saronara... go away... go away!

(Passes off into the blackness, disappearing - softly wailing - the music dying away. The sun has set in a red glow. All are looking off after the fox woman)

KARA

(turning suddenly towards R. - expectantly - half to himself)

Who comes - Banza!

(kowtows)

69 M

BANZA

(Enters R. - he is old - patriarchal - about 60 - his face

heavy with thought... his armour is worn over the robe of a priest... under his long flowing sleeves, mail is seen He is holding the hand of little Sano, a child, who carries two small swords in his belt and a Samisen on his back)

(Banza advances to Kara - lays his hand on his shoulder)

Daimyo!

(All turn to Banza)

Once more we are permitted to meet here, for the dusk hour.

(Bows as though thanking the Gods)

(Kara takes out his swords - steps to shrine and holds them up - the others uplifting theirs - standing back of him. Little Sano strikes cymbals as though to attract the attention of Kwannon...and all look in her face - kneeling very low. The music is almost a dirge. As all kneel, their swords outstretched towards the Godders, the glow of the sunset and fire-light touches her face and glints on their armor and swords. At back, darkness is gathering - fire-flies twinkle in the blackness of the mountain)

Attend! Attend! August Kwannon, Goddess of Mercy -

(Wails - softly rubs hands while praying)

we honorably ask - as always - here assembled at the dusk hour - that we - the last of the Samurai may live for our swords - and by our swords - may die... Nembut su! Nembut su!

ALL

Keep it! Keep it! Keep it!

(as Banza rises - and others rise)

BANZA

(looking up - facing front)

Gods, remember Kato the carp fisher.

(all facing front, kowtow)

KARA

(turning suddenly)

Did you hear nothing?...

TORI

What?

KORIN

What?

KARA

(looking up)

My name?

NAGOYA

No!

BANZA

(looks at Kara - then outstretches his arm towards him as though in protection and unspeakable love)
The Daimyo has come back to us - but his heart is not here... Without you, Oh Daimyo chieftan, we were children, like our little Sano... With you - the warrior - we are lions! Kara! Do you love to lead us no more?

KARA

(turning to all)
Do I not lead ~~xxxxx~~ you as always?

BANZA

Aie, but there is no longer a soul in your sword!... You are a man of mystery.... your very pardon is a mystery!...

KARA

(troubled)
I do not understand it!

BANZA

Zakkuri never gave a life for nothing!

NAGOYA

Never!

TORI

Never!

BANZA

There is a price for it!

KARA

I only know that my swords were thrust into my girdle, a voice whispered - "Go, but remember all think you dead." I tore the bandage from my eyes... I saw the sunlight suddenly...there was nothing... no on one... I was alone... every road was deserted as if by intention...

NAGOYA

And you took a false way to watch if any followed?

KARA

I lay an hour hid at the lantern of the "Demon's Eye." No one passed... then I took the false road....

BENTO

And no one appeared?

KARA

No one...

BANZA

Clearly there was only one object - to find us all... and yet.. he did not follow... and he wants it believed that you are dead..

NAGOYA

Strange!

BANZA

Was anyone with Zakkuri when you were set free?...

KARA

(puzzled)

I remember nothing - not even the match to the place of torture. I thought of you all as I was drifting away... of you, Banza, with tears... and of

(Pauses)

... The Gods have made this world sweeter than I thought - before I went into hiding....

BANZA

(struck)

What is sweeter to a Samurai than his honor? - Now I know what has changed you --

NAGOYA

(Starting forward)

- It is that woman!

KORIN :

Nagoya! :

BENTO : Together - angrily

Nagoya! :

OTHERS :

Woman! :

TORI

Do not say it! The Daimyo has led us in an hundred battles! - He has taken oath - "In all our lives, no woman -

THE MEN

(Echo)
No woman!

TORI

Nothing but our swords!"
(Little Sano who, attracted by the fire-flies has gone up and is now half way up the steps R., turns at the sound of their angry voices and sits on the steps, as patiently folding his little hands - looking down on them curiously)

NAGOYA

(Quietly)
Does he deny what I have said? (going down)

KARA

(Quietly)
No... A woman - outcast through sheltering me - with no place to lay her head - is every moment in my thoughts... I bade her - if I lived - come to me here --

KORIN

Here?

BANZA

Here!

OTHERS

Here!
Not here!

KARA

- the third day... It is the third day and my heart is crying out for her... Samurai, I have broken my oath - I can no longer lead!

NAGOYA

A Samurai of our last ten - has no right to love... It is best! Tori?

TORI

It is best... Korin?

KORIN

Best!...

ALL

(Save Banza)
Best! Best!

Go-Scene ready on Platform-VE

9th scene.

Soiled gray-
Hack Cloak-
Sword.

KARA

(Appealing to all of them)

Let me follow -- then.

NAGOYA

With a woman - No!

BANZA

(Holding up his hand - gently)

Is there a heart here that has not loved - is not scarred as are our bodies?... Nagoya awoke to the Samurai path only when his celestial Mother died

(points to Sano - all kowtow)

and even yet... you think of her....

(Nagoya turns away)

Some of our women are gone - weary with waiting... some dead by our enemies... But their spirits have always led us to just revenge - even when our hearts have been heaviest.

TORI

(Unconvinced - sternly)

Still -

BANZA

(touching Tori gently - pointing off R.)

Under the bamboos, there is one sleeping, Tori, - who found love stronger than the frail body that followed you -

(Tori abruptly turns his back - moved)

...And now, we are only men of memories... grizzled and battle-scarred... the Daimyo is young - next to Little Sano - youth will have its first love - as we have had - ours.

(Yo-san's theme is played - she appears from R. - far up coming down the rocky path)

LITTLE SANO

(Who has been looking up R.)

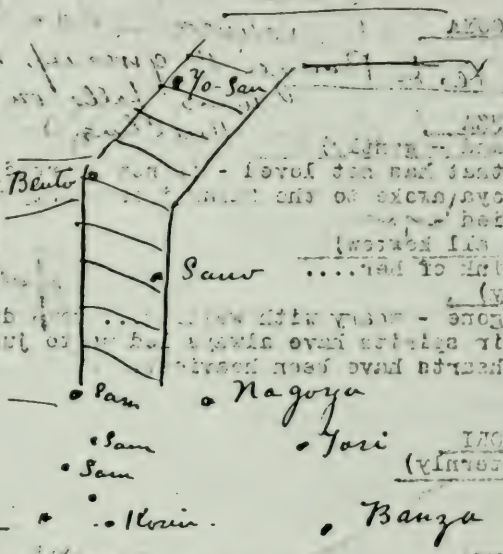
August Nagoya - my Father!

(Points up with one finger)

(All look save Kara, who stands with his back to them - his eyes downcast. Yo-san is worn and tired and spent - very piteous. She is dressed in the long, thin kimono worn in the sword room - but which is now torn and travel-stained - she has a black rain cloak, thin and clinging to her figure. She is dishevelled - exhausted. She does not pause on the steps - after seeing that they are there - but with sunken eyes, comes down as though walking mechanically with her last strength. Sano, going to her, gives her his hands helping her - At the turn of the steps Banza brings her down)

BANZA

Kara!


Yo-San
Butterfly
Suzu
Sam
Nagoya
Sam
Yori
Sam
Banza
Kara

KARA

(turning, going to her)

Yo-san!

(she goes into his arms mechanically, with a weary wail)

Aie, she has come far to me...

(Little Sano, who has put a bough on the fire, stands looking at Yo-san)

SANO

Are you tired?

(Yo-san, dazed, exhausted, nods "yes")

Did you walk all the way?

(Yo-san nods "yes")

And never slept?

(Yo-san sinks against Kara - overcome)

KARA

Samurai! The Princess of Tosan!

(60) MA

ALL

(Kowtowing until they kneel)

Daimyo!

(She looks in Kara's face searchingly, then from face to face - knowing that these men are all betrayed by her)

KARA

(as Banza approaches L. of him)

This is Banza!

(as she hears the name of Banza and looks up into his face - she draws her hood down and sinks to her knees. Kara kneels, resting her head against him - lifting her hood)

KARA

It is all strange to her...

O S top MA.

(Banza makes a sign to others and they go up to back of torii)

(Yo-san closes her eyes)

KARA

(Picking her up in his arms)

Rest... sleep, and when you awaken - ask of Kwannon, the Merciful - who gives every girl soul one wish - that love, the vastest in all the heavens, may atone for all you have lost - for me.

(He lays her at the feet of Kwannon and remains bending over her)

LITTLE SANO

(Whispering, as if not to awaken her)

I will sing to my samison softly, that she may have celestial dreams.

(Goes up and sits on steps - a chord or two on Samisen)

YO-SAN

(suddenly, half starting up)

Kara - Kara - let us all go away - let us go far...

KARA

(the only one who hears this)

Go away --

YO-SAN

We ~~must...~~ let us go beyond the west ocean - now - quickly.

(changing)

No... ~~it is~~ too late!

KARA

What, my Yo-san? What is too late?

(Yo-san looks at him strangely - staring for a moment - and sleep over-powering her - she murmurs "too late" and sleeps)

(Looking up at Banza who has approached and overheard this)

She is frightened....

(He puts the corner of her cloak over her. The sun has gone down. The faint silvery moon is seen)

SANO

(singing)

"In Kaa there lived a semi fair-
And to her door came insects rare -
They chirped and croaked and sang of love -
Till morning met the moon above - "

(strikes chords)

~~KORIN~~ Kara -

(during song - rising)

Who watches to-night?

TORI

Tori!

(He passes off L.)

BENTO

Bento!

(He goes up steps and presently passes off R.)

KORIN

Korin!

(He goes off R. with bow and arrow)

BANZA

(to others)

Rest tonight, it has been a long day...

(Men from time to time pass unobtrusively into ruined temple L.)

NAGOYA

(at temple, calling up to Sano)

Here, little cricket - come - it is time for you to sleep!

SANO (on steps)

(Wilfully)

No! I am singing - to the lovely lady!

(Nagoya, smiling, passes into temple)

SANO

(Sings)

"Chan - chan -
Cha - cha -
Yoitomose - yoitomose -
Chan - chan - "

(the dull whirr of a shot is heard - a string snaps - the Samisen falls out of the boy's hands - he rolls gently down three steps and lies dead - one hand outstretched downwards)

BANZA

Sano!

(Banza, Tori, and Korin rush in - gather about the child, Tori brings it down)

BENTO (Comes down from top of steps.)

Zakkuri's musket men!

KARA

They have found us! Look! Look! How many?

(Bento, Tori and Korin - now hasten off - in different directions)

BANZA

(who holds the child)

Poor little Sano!

KARA

(at temple door - calling. He is the leader now)

Nagoya! Samurai! Samurai!

(Nagoya appears in temple door - followed by others)

(to Nagoya - pointing)

Sano!

NAGOYA

(seeing the child whom Banza has laid on the ground - and throwing himself frantically over him)

Oh Gods! Gods! My Boy! My beautiful boy!

KARA

The fire --

(some stamp it out - leaving only the moonlight)

Wait for Bento, Korin, Tori!

(They go to various points looking out - Nagoya has frenziedly gathered the child into his arms and now takes him into temple - wailing)

BANZA

(struck)

Kara -

(drawing him aside)

It is the woman --

KARA

No ! No!

BANZA

Zakkuri wanted all to think you dead! - How did she know that you were - alive - here?

KARA

(struck)

Shaka!

(then shaking Yo-san by the shoulder)

Yo-san! Yo-san! Yo-San.

(when she is awakened)

Where is the parchment I gave you?... (63)

YO-SAN

(Giving him one look - comprehending all - stolidly)

Zakkuri!

(Banza and Kara stand looking at her pitilessly - she gives a strange scream as she looks from one to the other)

Banza!

(Then looking at the faces of the men who have drawn near)

All! All!

KARA

(savagely)

Sh!...

(He passes his hand over his forehead as though trying to realize what she has done... there is a pause - a silence - no one stirs)

That was the price for my freedom? They were to die, and I live?

(Yo-san follows the sweep of his finger with her eyes)
(Turns to his men appealingly - almost heart-broken)
Samurai!

YO-SAN
I did not know them... they were strangers... I knew you...

KARA
Gods, woman, but did you not know honor?

YO-SAN
... I only knew you - Lord!

TORI
(rushing in from R.)
Zakkuri's men are everywhere!

BENTO
(Entering from turning of steps R.)
- There is a ring of steel about us!

KORIN
(Re-entering from L.)
They come from every side!
(All speak in low voices)

KARA
(Drawing his sword)
Gods! We have fought battles before -

BENTO
(Who has gone up towards the top of the steps)
Aie! - There is a way out of this trap! - across the mountain -

KARA
Draw!
(Every sword is drawn)
(As Bento reaches top of steps to see if the way is clear, he is shot down)

TORI
Bento...
(Then in a hushed voice, pointing off L. and R.)
Torches!... Torches!...

KARA

(looking off - all about him)

They move slowly, surely lest we should slip through.

HAGOYA

(Who has appeared in temple door - his face ghastly pale - drawn - his sleeve rolled up - his sword in his hand - a handkerchief tied about his forehead - grimly)

We fight no more upon Honshu!

BANZA

It is the end!

TORI

The end!

HAGOYA

Aie!

(Wails)

BANZA

(quietly)

Peace Hagoya.... We shall soon follow him!

(Pointing to within temple)

KARA

Samurai! Brothers! Gods - it is through me!

(Striking himself, he closes his eyes in grief)

(Yo-san piteously putting out her hand to touch him,)

YO-SAN

Kara!

(He throws her down - taking out his sword with a guttural "Ugh" and towering over her)

(Yo-san, wanting to be killed - opens her kimono baring her throat, with a willing gutteral exclamation)

BANZA

(stays Kara with an outstretched hand)

Prince! It is not for us to mete the punishment...

(faint impressive music played)

From henceforth... under our laws and our Gods - she is as one dead!.. for she has betrayed - to death - lives entrusted to honor... To those who sully honor -

(all kowtow)

it is written... none shall touch them - feed them... give them shelter... A death hour with none to see or hear - no Gods - nothing!

(to Kara)

Obey the law...

(to Yo-san)

From now, you stand... alone...

LEAL

(looking out - call about him)

They move slowly, surely fast we should slip through.

MACONA

(The has opened in the single door - inferno greatly pale - drawn - his sleeve rolled up - his sword in his hand - a handkerchief tied about his forehead - grim)

We fight no more upon Tlalom!

MAYNA

It is too end!

TOPI

The end!

MADONA

Ah!

(MAIZE)

PAHNA

(mutely)

Peace ... We shall soon follow him!

(Pointing to Yaqui tomolo)

PAPA

Samurai! Brothers! Gods - it is through me!

(Striking himself, he closes his eyes in grief)

(In-sen piteously putting out her hand to touch him.)

YO-SAN

Lord!

(He throws her down - taking out his sword with a [illegible] at "UEN" and towering over her)

wanting to be killed - opens her [illegible]

Yaqui kill ready off L on platform.

LAONA

(stays here with an outstretched hand)

Friend! It is not for us to see the punishment...

(Night impressive music played)

From [illegible]... under our [illegible] and our Gods - she is as one dead!.. for she has betrayed - to death - lives entrusted to honor... To those who sadly honor -

(All bowed)

It is written... Here shall torch them - feed them... give them shelter... A death hour with here to see or hear - no Gods - nothing! .....

(to Kang)

Obey his [illegible]...

[illegible]

(All near her retreat leaving her alone - even Kara - standing apart)

YO-SAN

Not for long! I shall die and go to the Lotus fields with him... Kara...

BANZA

Alas! You cannot, unhappy one...

YO-SAN

I cannot die with... him?...

BANZA

(The music is now mass-like)
Yo-san, Princess of Tosan - you are accursed... kneel...

YO-SAN

(only one idea in her head)
I will be separated from - him?

BANZA

(Taking Buddhist book of rites by his side - and lifting a faggot from the fire that she may see to read)
Read what is written for those like you...
(He opens the book and hands it to her)

YO-SAN

(reading)
"Before the betrayers of honor shall rise to the first white Heaven of Form - they " Aie -
(Wails)

BANZA

(Holding up the faggot closer - pointing with his finger)
Read!

YO-SAN

(reading)
"They shall sink down into the darkness ofwandering souls - for the Gods set them back from heaven - one thousand years!
(All drop to their knees - a faint murmur of horror among them)

BANZA

One - thousand - years.....

YO-SAN

I... have thrown away this whole world...them...
(pointing to Samurai)
to be with him...and I cannot...because there is a thing called honor - Aie, Aie. O Stop M
(Wailing, falls on her hands)
(The music ceases)

ZAKKURI'S VOICE
(From above, at a little distance)
Samurai!

BANZA
(In a low voice)
Zakkuri!

ZAKKURI
Do you give up your swords?... Answer!

KARA
(Raising his voice - meaning to be heard by Zakkuri)
Samurai!
(All look at him)
I look upon your faces for the last time!... There were forty-seven Ronin... like them we have had but one word - honor... there were thirty of us....then ten... in a moment there will be none -

(65) M

BANZA
But our names shall be whispered to the Gods...

KARA
Are we satisfied?

ZAKKURI'S VOICE
Samurai! In the Emperor's name - Your answer!

KARA
Gentlemen of Japan, we will go making one last stand!...Those who live after and can fight no more, wait for the end at the bamboo forest... as Samurai who die by their own swords... To those who do not come - a happy, peaceful, glorious - good-night!
(The music which has been playing impressively has burst into a triumphant paean - as though to express that all had conquered life and death. All save Banza, file past Kara with drawn swords - kowtowing they line down towards L., waiting for Kara to lead them)

(66) M

Ready: Off R. 3E

Kara

Nagoya

Y-o-San

Off L.2E. Tori

" L 3E Kwin.

YO-SAN

(Grasping Kara's cloak as he is going into his place)

~~Forgive~~!

'Bus. — Banza & Kara' Climb up steps.

KARA

(whose shoulder Banza now touches)

... I am a Samurai...

(with almost a sob - passes out with Banza - all following)

(Yo-san's eyes look after him without moving...as soon as he passes off, the burst of music ceases... A strange, weird music begins for Yo-san - with an occasional cymbal oriental - (not a melody). She mechanically takes knife out of her obi and stands looking at it - her mouth drawn down - in black but dazed despair... then she sees the figure of Kwannon and advances towards it)

(66) XA

YO-SAN

On Shende, the mountain of shadows...apast the mist of ghosts - I shall wander soon - no tapers burning to point out the way... Therefore Kwannon of Mercy... before I go... give me my first happy girl's wish... that I may see his face again and die near him - where he is...

(Throws herself on the feet of Kwannon, knife in hand)

(A black cloud passes over the moon and all is dark. During interval, the music should express battle - the forlorn hope - then more impressive music as the remnants of the band are supposed to meet for the end)

Curtain.

Same dress.

Stay R. side stage —

(67) XA

SCENE SECOND

The Red Bamboo forest. The tryst of death.

The light of the reddish but fuller moon illuminates a Grove of Bamboos - riven and burnt by lightning. The scarred spikes of the bamboo stand up like javelins - The sound of musketry in the distance dies out - a faint straggling shot or two - then there is silence)

(Kara appears from L. - spent, breathless. The right sleeve of his kouri torn out - everything about him bespeaking combat. He pauses - recovers his breath... and - putting his sword in his left hand, rests the point on the ground,

steadying himself with it...superbly conquering his wounds - he peers into the shadows about him)

KARA

(calling)
Who is here?

NAGOYA'S VOICE R 3rd

(Faintly, as though he lay back of the bamboos - unseen)
Nagoya!

KORIN'S VOICE

(Off faintly, R.)
Korin!

TORI

(Off L. - faintly) L 3rd
Tori!

KARA

And Banza?
(A silence)
Are all gone?

TORI L 2nd

All are gone!

NAGOYA'S VOICE

All... we can fight no more.
(very faintly)
No more...

KARA

To us the honor of dying by our own swords! -
(Kisses his sword)

NAGOYA

(Faintly)
Sayonara, Chieftan! I die!
(The bamboos shake and rustle as though he had fallen among them)

KARA

Sayonara!... I salute your soul as it passes.
(Looks into the air as though he could feel the soul in its flight)

stagging himself with it...suddenly concealing his wounds - he leers into the shadows about him)

KATA

(chilling)
Who is here?

MAGOLAN'S VOICE

(Faintly, as though he lay back of the bamboos - unseen)
Magova!

SCATTA'S VOICE

(Off faintly, R.)
North!

TORI

(Off L. - faintly)
Tori!

KATA

And Ramar?
(A silence)
Are all gone?

TORI

All are gone!

MAGOLAN'S VOICE

All... we can fight no more.
(very faintly)
No more...

KATA

To me the honor of giving my own accolade! -
(Kisses his sword)

MAGOLA

(Faintly)
Sayonara, Chieftan! I die!
(The Japanese giggle and chatter as though to bad fellow among them)

KATA

Sayonara!... I salute your soul as it leaves.
(Looks into the air as though he could feel the soul in its flight.)

10th Scene -

Same as 9th.

TORI

Sayonara!
(A rustle of the bamboos as before)

KORIN

Sayonara!
(A rustle of the bamboos)

KARA

(Immovable)
I salute you! I salute you!
(A silence)
(Then takes off his cloak, throws it on the ground - kneels - back to audience - uplifting his head)
Shaka!
(Kowtows)
(Yo-san comes on from L. - standing at a little distance, humbly)
You are there. ...
(Without looking up)

YO-SAN

Abjectly... I am... Lord! Oh, reach me your hand... I have loved you...
(Coming down, kneeling by his side - almost in a whisper)
Let me slip by the Gods with you... in the dark...

KARA

(no emotion)
You cannot...

YO-SAN

Let me be with you but one step of the way - I know it is forbidden - but the Gods may not see that - they are so vast... After! - my punishment!

KARA

(Still with no emotion, but raising his small sword)
Sayonara --

YO-SAN

August Lord - wait - one minute... wait...
(still not daring to touch him)
I... I... Oh I will suffer all those thousand years - of torments - alone - in the dark... I do not care for them - if at the end I see your face... Whisper that you forgive - that you will wait for me at the edge of the first white heaven - beyond the Meido - where I can come pure and white... In one long thousand years.

Kara drops his kouri about his body -

φ Ring when Yo-san drops swords

Ready — 10 bowls } off
Yo-san

KARA

(Jumpy-pip)
I warn you! I warn
(A pause)
(Then in
(Pause - his
(Pause)
(Pause)
Yo-San comes on from L. - stands at a little distance,
(Pause)
You are there. ...
(Without looking up)

YO-SAN

Listen... I am... Listen. Oh, reach me your hand... I have
loved you...
(Sinking down, kneeling by his side - almost in a whisper)
Let us slip by the Gods with you... in the dark...

KARA

(In emotion)
You cannot...

YO-SAN

Let us be with you but one step of the way - I know it is for-
bidden - but the Gods may not see that - they are so vast...
Listen! - my punishment!

KARA

(Still with no emotion, but retaining his sword)
Sayonara --

YO-SAN

August Lord - wait - one minute... wait...
(Still not daring to touch him)
I... I... oh I will suffer all those thousand years - of tor-
ments - alone - in the dark... I do not care for them - if at
the end I see your face... Whisper that you forgive - that you
will wait for me at the edge of the first white heaven - be-
yond the World - where I can come pure and white... In one
long thousand years.

KARA

(Unseen by audience - makes wound with his short sword - and holding out his arms - feebly)

Yo-san! I can forgive now...

(She slips into his arms - puts her face to his)

Gods! Gods! Be gentle with her...remembering it was for - love.

YO-SAN

You will wait for me?

KARA

In the Meido - call my name... I shall be listening!... I shall be listening - Sayonara...

(Dies)

YO-SAN

(Then up-raising her head)

From Nirhana it is whispered to me... a thousand years in the sight of the Gods are as ~~one moment~~. In the light upon Hakone

(touches the hilt of her little knife - no other movement She looks upward, praying, her lips not moving. Soldiers appear among the trees - ~~Zakburi, Kugo and several musket men are seen. They kowtow when they see Kara is dead - and retreat... the scene is left in darkness)~~ (69) M

(An intermezzo is played - solemn - with a relentless swing - as though in the blackness the under worlds were moving - irrespective of suffering. The intermezzo sinks down very P.P. voices of souls come up out of the blackness - restless, tormented - moaning in hopeless pain - then the intermezzo swelling out, drowns the cries and the darkness breaks - showing - "The Mountain of Sheido" on the brink of "The River of Souls"... A ghostly black mountain rising out of a void... At the back the slope of the Mountain of Sheido, extends across and up, blotting out everything else and pressing into a void - all bare. As the scene dimly comes into view (still quite dark) a flush of fire comes up and illuminates the entire mountain - there are two intermittent red glows. At mountain's steep edge, the black, quivering, restless River of Souls - It is dark and phosphorescent - the waters live and move - rising in shapes unlike water yet fluent. In the hollows, and where the water is at rest, the color is shining and inky. Occasionally a soul glides along in the black pool, moaning. From far back R. drifting on from nothing - lost souls float across disappearing to L. Presently across a narrow path

(70) M

(70½) M

Ready Kara off L.3.E. on platform

Yo-San on escalator off R

11th scene.

YO-SAN

You will wait for me?

KARA

In the Veldo - soaring ... I shall be listening!... I shall be listening - Sojourer...

(Huge)

YO-SAN

(Then up-relating her head)

From Nirvana it is whispered to me... a thousand years in the night of the Gods are as one moment... [illegible]

(touches the hilt of her little knife - re-adjusts it)

She looks upward, praying, her lips [illegible]

appear among the trees - [illegible] and [illegible]

non-[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in dark-

ness and [illegible]... the scene is left in darkness)

(An interlude is played - [illegible] - with a re-

[illegible] swing - as though in the [illegible] the

water worlds were moving - [illegible] of sub-

[illegible]. The interlude sinks down very [illegible].

voices of worlds come up out of the [illegible]

[illegible], [illegible] - [illegible] in [illegible] pain -

[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] out, drowns the

cries and the [illegible] - [illegible] - "The

[illegible] of [illegible]" on the [illegible] of "The River

of [illegible]"... A [illegible] black mountain rising

out of [illegible]... At the back the slope of the

Mountain of [illegible], extreme [illegible] and [illegible],

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible]

void - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] into

view (still [illegible]) a [illegible] of fire comes

up and illuminates the entire [illegible] - [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] red [illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] gone, [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] a [illegible] river

of [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] - the

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

water red [illegible]. In the [illegible], and where

the water is [illegible], the [illegible] is [illegible] and

[illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible]

on [illegible] [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

in the mountain, the soul of Yo-san - calls "Kara - Kara" - she comes along the path - staggering - her form scarcely distinguishable from the shadows)

YO-SAN

Where are you? - Kara, it is a thousand years... Have you forgot? Where is the way to heaven?

(The soul boat rises on the river - in it a grim boatman with a shadowy gray cloak and hood and an oar of light.. there is a strange light on the boat - Yo-san steps to the brink, lifting her cloak, looking ahead - her draperies blow straight - as though she still was in troubled waters. Yo-san steps in - sits with a sigh of contentment, as though her fears were ended. As the boat moves off, blackness blots it out.

(The music changes - growing higher and higher - symbolic of a flight to heaven - the lights go up, showing -

The first Celestial Heaven.

(71)

A Thousand years have elapsed.

(Only clouds are seen. Music is mystical and P.P. The lower part of the clouds are dark, suggesting the border between lower worlds and the Celestial Heavens. (Kara in form is seen at the back - among the clouds - waiting. His face is luminous - his garments are of the colors and seem a part of the clouds themselves)

(72)

(Voices of children heard singing above)

"Over the clouds! Over the clouds!

Here are the golden Lotus-lands!
Here are the pillows of rest!
Here are the seas of dreams - pearl strands!
Here are the seats of the blest!

Over the clouds! Over the clouds!

Here are the Buddhas - and Buddha, the Lord!
Here is repose heaven-deep!
Here, weary ones, is the last great reward,
Here Shaka gives rest - peace - sleep!

Over the clouds! Over the clouds!

(The voices die away and the celestial music very P.P. is heard)

(Then the voice of Yo-san is heard calling)

YO-SAN

(Now in form)

Kara! Kara! is seen coming up from R.

KARA

(turns)

Yo-san!

(He stretches out his arms - from which long, mist-like sleeves flow)

(From the darkness Yo-san is seen to come up. She is in dark garments which match the clouds - but as she passes into the lighter clouds - her dark garments drop - showing her in white)

YO-SAN

(seeing him)

Kara!

(With shining faces and arms outstretched they meet) 73

(During all this, there is exquisite music. It is a slow crescendo to the point where they meet, when it swells into ecstacy, then dies, at last, note by note. As they ascend, the refrain of "Nothing ever changes" is heard (spiritual)

C U R T A I N.

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[The darling of the gods]

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